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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Kaktovik, Alaska
February 22, 2023
10:15 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Oomittuk, Chairman
Esther Hugo
Brower Frantz
Martha Itta
Wanda Kippi
Eddie Rexford

Regional Council Coordinator, Jessica Gill

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kaktovik, Alaska - 2/22/2023)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Good morning. Steve Oomittuk for the record. I will be Chairing the meeting for today. We're about ready to get started. Thank you for your patience. We will go down the agenda. We understand that we don't have a quorum so we will continue and call the meeting to order. Before we call it to order we will have a invocation and we ask Esther Hugo to do an invocation for us.

MS. HUGO: Thank you. Good morning. If we can all stand.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Taikuu, Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass.

We'll call the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. The time is 10:15 a.m. on February 22nd, 2023. We'll go to item number 3, roll call, to establish a quorum.

Leigh, can you do a roll call for us?

MS. GILL: Thank you, everyone. So for the record my name is Jessica Gill, I'm the Council Coordinator for the Southcentral or sorry, for the North Slope Regional Advisory Council and I will do a roll call here.

Gordon Brower, Utqiagvik.

(Not present)

MS. GILL: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

(Not present)

MS. GILL: Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Here.

2

3 MS. GILL: Thank you.

4

5 Edward Rexford, Kaktovik.

6

7 (Not present)

8

9 MS. GILL: Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

10

11 (Not present)

12

13 MS. GILL: Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

14

15 MS. HUGO: Here.

16

17 MS. GILL: Thank you.

18

19 Brower Frantz, Utqiagvik.

20

21 (Not present)

22

23 MS. GILL: Peter Williams, Anaktuvuk

24

Pass.

25

26 (Not present)

27

28 MS. GILL: All right. We do not have a
29 quorum, Mr. Oomittuk. We have two of eight seated
30 Council members.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
33 Jessica. We don't have a quorum. We have two Council
34 members out of eight, we need five for a quorum. We
35 will continue with our meeting and go down the agenda,
36 but we'll not take any action on any item with an
37 asterisk on it. And hopefully tomorrow we will have a
38 quorum, we'll listen to the reports down the agenda and
39 we are in a recording. So hopefully we have several of
40 our Council members traveling so once we do establish a
41 quorum we will go back to those action items. And
42 thank you for your patience.

43

44 So we'll go down the agenda. Item 4 is
45 the meeting minutes which no action item can be taken
46 on that.

47

48 Item 5 we'll go down to welcome and
49 introduction by the Chair. We have Esther Hugo from

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1 Anaktuvuk Pass and I am Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.
2 And just you can introduce the guests and then we'll do
3 the ones that are here in person and the ones online.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Oomittuk. I
8 was hoping we could maybe do some meeting announcements
9 first; is that okay?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.

12

13 MS. GILL: All right. So just welcome
14 to the winter meeting of the North Slope Regional
15 Advisory Council. For those attending in person please
16 make sure you sign in at the front desk with the sign
17 in sheet that I will put up there in just a second.
18 For those on the teleconference line please keep
19 yourself on mute, if you do not have a mute button on
20 your phone press star, six to mute or unmute yourself.
21 If there's a distraction on the line the operator will
22 mute the line. Please don't place us on hold because
23 it does create a lot of interference on our end. If
24 you need to leave or have a bad connection please just
25 hang up and call back in.

26

27 All right. So Council members
28 represent the people of their regions to the Boards,
29 the Secretary and agency Staff, the Federal Subsistence
30 Board, the Secretary of Agriculture and agency Staff
31 and the general public. As Secretarial appointees
32 Council members also represent the Federal Subsistence
33 Management Program to the people of their region.
34 Council members are expected to treat fellow Council
35 members, agency and organization Staff and members of
36 the public with respect both at the table and at all
37 other times. And this includes attending the meetings
38 as often as they can. Council meetings are conducted
39 according to Robert's Rules of Order.

40

41 All right. And at the beginning of
42 each day there'll be an opportunity to provide comment
43 on nonagenda items for the public. Council Chair will
44 announce this opportunity and Mr. Oomittuk will be
45 acting as Chair for this portion of the meeting. If a
46 member of the public would like to speak we'll maybe go
47 ahead and do our introductions and then do the public
48 testimony if that's okay with you, Mr. Oomittuk?

49

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

2

3 MS. GILL: Okay. Thank you. All
4 right. So that's all of my notices, maybe we can go
5 ahead and do the welcome and introductions. I know
6 we're missing a couple people in the room to have a
7 little break so I'm trying to draw this out a little
8 bit, but yeah, I guess I will have you go, Mr. Oomittuk
9 and then Ms. Hugo.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
12 Just for the record I'm Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.
13 And Esther from Anaktuvuk Pass. We want to welcome
14 everybody online and in person. Like we stated here we
15 don't have a quorum so we will continue and listen to
16 the reports. No action items can be taken. And
17 hopefully tomorrow we will be able to establish a
18 quorum and take action on items with an asterisk. But
19 for now we will continue down the agenda.

20

21 Esther, did you have anything to say?

22

23 MS. HUGO: Good morning. I just wanted
24 to say my name is Esther Hugo and I'm glad to be here,
25 to join you again for the RAC meeting. I notice that I
26 was the Vice-Chair, but due to respect with Mr.
27 Oomittuk here being in the Council for a long period so
28 thank you. I just wanted to say I'm glad I was able to
29 make it and we'll just go on with the meeting as we
30 don't have a quorum, but we'll discuss. And it's great
31 to be here.

32

33 I got a granddaughter who just turned
34 nine years old and she misses grandma because this is
35 my third time I think I miss her birthday again. We
36 had discussed last year -- we had so much fun last year
37 on her birthday because it was 2/22/22 so it.....

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. HUGO:we tried to explain to
42 her you know, about the two, two, twos and yeah. I
43 just wanted to say that I'm thinking of her dearly, but
44 I'm -- I -- grandma will make sure she gets her
45 birthday presents on the way home.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Taikuu,
2 Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass. And can we have --
3 I'm not sure who's all here in person, but you can
4 introduce yourself and maybe we go around the corner.
5 Usually everything happens from the right so and we go
6 to the left. So.....

7
8 MS. GILL: So have everyone come in
9 person up to the mic, just hit the big button, make
10 sure it turns red and then speak and then turn it off.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, members of
15 the Council, everyone else that's here, on the phone.
16 This is Brent Vickers, I am the Anthropology Division
17 Supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management. I
18 will also be the leadership team representative today
19 for OSM.

20
21 Thank you, everyone.

22
23
24 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
25 name is Glenn Chen, I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief
26 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Always a pleasure to
27 attend your meetings.

28
29 MR. NELSON: Good morning, North Slope
30 Regional Advisory Council. My name is Martin Nelson,
31 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm
32 the northeast Area Biologist. This is a position
33 formerly held by Beth Leonard, she retired and I've
34 taken over. So good morning.

35
36 MS. COLD: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
37 members of the Council and everyone else present in the
38 room and online. My name is Helen Cold and I'm the
39 Arctic area Subsistence Resource Specialist for the
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
41 Subsistence. This position was formerly held by Beth
42 Mikow and I am glad to be here today and to get to
43 speak to all of you.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. GONZALEZ: Good morning, everyone.

48
49 MR. LIND: Good morning, North Slope

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1 RAC. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the
2 Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning to you
3 all.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
6 We've still got a few more here at Barter Island
7 introducing themselves and then we will go the ones
8 online after.

9
10 Thank you for your -- and thank you for
11 your patience.

12
13 MR. GONZALEZ. Good morning, everyone.
14 My name is Daniel Gonzalez, I'm a graduate student at
15 UAF studying anthropology. And I've worked with the
16 Subsistence Division as a Subsistence Resource
17 Specialist for the State before that, before I started
18 going to school.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. MCGUIRE: Good morning. My name's
23 Rosemary McGuire. I'm a Ecologist with the Wildlife
24 Conservation Society and I'm here working on a project
25 with -- I'm here working on a project, Coproduction of
26 Knowledge with carnivore populations on the North
27 Slope.

28
29 MS. STINCHCOMB: Good morning,
30 everyone. I my name is Taylor Stinchcomb, I am a
31 Social Scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society
32 working with Rosemary. And it's great to be here with
33 you all.

34
35 Thank you so much for your time.

36
37 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, members of
38 the Council and everyone here. My name is Kendra
39 Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
40 Subsistence Management.

41
42 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native). My name is
43 Carmen Daggett, my Inupiat name is (in Native). I'm
44 the Area Biologist for game management Unit 26A, the
45 western half of the North Slope. And I'm really happy
46 to see all of your faces and be here in Kaktovik. I'm
47 excited to hear what the community has to offer and
48 what they -- what knowledge they wish to share as well
49 as from you always, Council members. Good morning.

50

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1 MS. HONIG: Hi, good morning. Leigh
2 Honig with OSM. I am a Council Coordinator with
3 Bristol Bay and I was formerly the North Slope Council
4 Coordinator up here helping Jessica. Very glad to be
5 here and looking forward to the meeting.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. GILL: Great. And I think I'm last
10 here in the room of Staff and stuff. I am Jessica
11 Gill, Council Coordinator for North Slope Regional
12 Advisory Council.

13
14 MR. HAWKALUK: Good morning members of
15 the Council. My name is Nathan Hawkaluk, I'm the
16 Acting Refuge Manager at Arctic National Wildlife
17 Refuge. We've got a couple other Staff here with us as
18 well.

19
20 MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Council
21 members and all the other participants, attendees. My
22 name is Paul Leonard, I'm a Ecologist with Arctic
23 National Wildlife Refuge.

24
25 MS. OLEMAUN: Good morning. I'm
26 Frances Olemaun, I'm the -- I'm with the North Slope
27 Borough Wildlife Management, I'm the Subsistence
28 Research Specialist for Kaktovik.

29
30 OFFICER SMITH: Good morning. My
31 name's Cody Smith, Law Enforcement Division with U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service stationed in Fairbanks.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you
35 for all coming in person and we appreciate that. And
36 we know we've been having some technical difficulties,
37 but we are online. We have one more then we will go to
38 the telephonic. Okay. I think we are ready for the
39 people online. And if you want to introduce yourself,
40 I think we have 14 people online, one at a time.

41
42
43 MR. TOOYAK: Good morning. My name is
44 Andrew Tooyak, originally from Point Hope. I work with
45 the Wilderness Society, a master's in jurisprudence in
46 energy law and also Federal Indian law. I am the
47 Western Arctic manager.

48
49 Can you hear me okay, is that coming
50

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1 through okay?

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.

4 Next.

5

6 MR. TOOYAK: Hello. All right. Yes,
7 and I'm just -- I'm pleased to be able to participate
8 and listen to this meeting here.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is
13 Katya Wessels and I'm the Council Coordination Division
14 Supervisor with Office of Subsistence Management
15 calling from Anchorage. Very glad to bein this meeting.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. AYERS: Also calling in from
20 Anchorage and OSM is Scott Ayers, the Fisheries
21 Division Supervisor. Good to hear you.

22

23 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. This is
24 Doreen Leavitt with Inupiat Community of the Arctic
25 Slope, Natural Resources Director.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
30 Klein with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm
31 the Regional Subsistence Coordinator. I'm calling in
32 from Anchorage.

33

34 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen
35 Hyer, the Fisheries Biologist for the North Slope with
36 -- calling in from Anchorage with OSM. I miss you
37 guys.

38

39 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning. This is
40 Greg Risdahl, the Subsistence Program Leader for the
41 U.S. Forest Service.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted).

45

46 MS. WESSELS: We can hear somebody
47 typing on the line. You know, if you are not currently
48 speaking please mute your line because we can hear you
49 typing in the background.

50

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1 This is Katya. Sorry about it.

2

3 MS. MIKOW: Good morning. This is Beth
4 Mikow, I'm the Anthropologist for the Arctic District
5 Office of the Bureau of Land Management calling in from
6 Fairbanks.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MR. McKEE: Good morning. This is
11 Chris McKee, Statewide Coordinator for the Bureau of
12 Land Management and Interagency Staff Committee member
13 calling in from Anchorage.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: We still can hear a
16 person typing. Whoever is typing please mute your
17 phone.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
20 Anybody else?

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Good morning. This is
23 Nissa Pilcher with OSM, Council Coordinator for Eastern
24 Interior and Seward Peninsula out of Fairbanks.

25

26 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. This is
27 Liz Williams, Anthropologist at OSM calling from
28 Anchorage.

29

30 MR. HANSEN: Good morning. Alex
31 Hanson.....

32

33 MS. LaVINE: Good morning. This is
34 Robin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with OSM
35 in Anchorage.

36

37 Sorry, go ahead.

38

39 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, Alex Hansen, Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue, Western Arctic
41 Caribou Biologist.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Good morning. This is Eva
44 Patton, Subsistence Program Manager with the National
45 Park Service. Wonderful to hear your voices this
46 morning, Steve and Esther. It's so great to be able to
47 gather in Kotzebue -- Kaktovik. Good morning.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Good

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1 morning.

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MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game from the Palmer office.

MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve calling from Fairbanks. Good morning.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Good morning. Anybody else online that we missed?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Do we have any other Council members besides Esther Hugo and Steve Oomittuk online that just recently called in. Did I hear Wanda Kippi calling in?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Gordon Brower? We know Gordon Brower's traveling.

Edward Rexford, Senior is also traveling.

Martha Itta, are you online?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And Peter Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Hearing none, we don't -- we haven't established a quorum, but we are going to continue on with the reports, but no action will be taken on one with a asterisk, but we can listen to the reports and

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1 hopefully tomorrow we can have a quorum and continue
2 with our meeting and take action on items.

3

4 We want to thank the community of
5 Barter Island for having us here and over at the City
6 office and we thank Kaktovik and the Staff and the
7 people here and the warm welcome in the cold weather.

8

9 Thank you. It's not too hot.

10

11 Did we miss anybody in introduction
12 online?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And we want
17 to thank everybody for calling in also and the ones
18 that came in person. It's been real difficult getting
19 into certain communities with the weather. And like I
20 said earlier hopefully we will have a quorum. And I
21 thank everybody and it's good to hear ICAS on there and
22 several other people.

23

24 And thank you all for calling in and we
25 will continue on with our agenda.

26

27 We're going to item 6 which is review
28 and adopt the agenda. It does have an asterisk so we
29 can't take any action items. We're just going to
30 follow the agenda and hopefully tomorrow we're going to
31 continue what's before us, but we can't make any
32 changes or anything and we cannot approve the agenda
33 because we do not have a quorum, but we will continue
34 to the next item so that we can continue and listen to
35 the concerns and the reports. We all came from a long
36 ways and we want to ensure that we -- you know, our
37 subsistence way of life and listening to the concerns
38 and to the different agencies on our way of life, the
39 animals that we depend on and the different reports
40 that are out there, but no action items will be taken.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 So we will go to item 7 which is
45 election of officers and then that will be held off
46 until tomorrow if we do get a quorum.

47

48 Item 8, review and approval of meeting
49 minutes which will not be taken also.

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1 So we go down to item 9 which is
2 reports. And we do have Council member reports, but we
3 would like to hear if anybody in the community of
4 Barter Island that are here in person that have any
5 public comments or testimony or concerns dealing with
6 the Regional Advisory Council. So is there anybody
7 here in Barter Island that has any concerns that they
8 want to address to the Council and the people online
9 and here in person with the different agencies? We can
10 always go back to it later and also tomorrow we can
11 also bring that up.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
16 none, we will move down through the agenda. We'll have
17 reports from our Council members.

18

19 Esther, do you have a report, any
20 concerns for your community with the Advisory Council
21 Subsistence?

22

23 MS. HUGO: Good morning. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair. I just -- it's -- I don't -- I do have
25 concerns regarding our caribou. As you all probably
26 hear or that our migration was pretty late again and we
27 just start hunting the cows right about -- I would say
28 first week of October -- November and we're still out
29 there catching caribou. I -- we're catching the cows
30 and they're pretty healthy. And we're trying to get a
31 chance to get out there because they're right up the
32 foothills, you know, and a lot of our young folks have
33 been going out, catching what they can for the elders
34 or those that don't have vehicles and snowmachines.
35 But it's a great sight to see them just being around
36 surrounding us. And of course we've got the predators,
37 we've got a lot of wolves and wolverines just in the
38 vicinity of the village. But we were pretty careful
39 because we know they're hungry and the caribou are
40 around the city.

41

42 But I just wanted to share that we are
43 really happy that we're able to catch what we always
44 had for, you know, food, our main diet. So we're
45 pretty happy. They're hanging around and we'll be
46 catching them until they head south and then they come
47 back in April and that's a good time we catch the
48 bulls. So it's bigger meat than the cow, but we're
49 just so grateful they're in sight and we got our
50

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1 caribou just to feed us through the weeks, through the
2 days.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 That's all I have.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Taikuu,
9 Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass for your concerns and
10 your report.

11

12 Do we have any other Council members
13 that came online that have any reports or concerns, any
14 of the Regional Advisory Council?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
19 none, this is Steve Oomittuk from the City of Point
20 Hope. You know, it's been a very cold winter these
21 last few years and we notice the decline in the last
22 several years from actually seeing the count of the
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd dropping in the last six
24 years or so and it's down at 164,000. And, you know,
25 it's -- we wanted to see the reports last year which
26 were delayed and, you know, in the year before it was
27 184,000, the year before that was over 200,000. And
28 it's just on a steady decline.

29

30 Even though the concerns we have within
31 our region and the Northwest Arctic Borough along with
32 the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council, we know
33 that even though we do voice our concerns and support
34 the different Regional Councils in subsistence, we
35 always get overridden by the Federal government even
36 though, you know, we lived here all our lives and we
37 understand our way of life and the animals that we
38 depend on on their migration. Even though we voice our
39 concern we're still overpowered and that's something
40 that we feel bad about because we want to ensure that
41 our way of life as people that have been here for
42 thousands of years and depend on the food source that
43 have clothed us, sheltered us since time immemorial.
44 You know, we want our younger generation to continue
45 that lifestyle and live the way they've always lived.
46 We don't want to lose our identity as a people in
47 connection with the animals that we so depend on
48 especially with the high cost of living.

49

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1 But we are here to hear your reports
2 and I'm sorry we don't have a quorum. I'm not the
3 Chairman, but I've been on here for several years, but
4 we're looking forward to continuing with our meeting
5 and listen to everybody's reports and what concerns we
6 have and, you know, we're the Regional Advisory
7 Council, Subsistence Advisory Council deals with mainly
8 on land. You know, a lot of us are ocean people, but
9 we're also overpowered by the Beluga Commission, the
10 Walrus Commission, AEWC, even though we are the same
11 people, but we do want to voice our concerns also
12 which, you know, meetings are held very rarely. But it
13 would be good in the future to have everybody under one
14 roof where we can voice all our concerns together as
15 one especially dealing with our subsistence way of life
16 and our identity as a people. Without the animals we
17 would not be here, you know, the animals are our
18 identity as a people so we want to ensure that they're
19 protected. They made -- they gave us our identity
20 since time immemorial and the decline of our
21 subsistence in regulations and telling us when we can
22 hunt, where we can hunt, how many we can hunt, what we
23 can hunt. You know, we know our own way of life and we
24 want to protect it too, you know, and we have different
25 outsiders that come into our community, especially with
26 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, we want to make sure
27 that the population comes up before we start letting
28 other people come in that don't reside within our
29 communities especially when the decline is real low.
30 And but we get overpowered by the Federal Advisory
31 Council even though we make suggestions.

32
33 But we appreciate everybody online and
34 we're looking forward to listening to your reports.
35 You know, when you talk about subsistence which was a
36 given name to us and something that we utilize and
37 learn to deal with. You know, we seen a big difference
38 especially with climate change and migration routes and
39 ice conditions and wind directions and it's taken a big
40 toll to the animals that we depend on because certain
41 animals follow the wind direction, the food source, the
42 rain, in the coldest time of the year it's, you know,
43 decline of certain animals and an abundance of
44 predators that are within our area also.

45
46 But we're looking forward to your
47 reports and if anybody else is online from the Council
48 that joined us, if you have a report and anybody from
49 Barter Island that has any concerns on a subsistence
50

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1 life or address to the different agencies that are
2 here, you're more than welcome to voice your concern at
3 this time before we move down the agenda.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. TOOYAK: Thank you, Mr. Acting
8 Chair, Steve. This is Andrew Tooyak for the record,
9 Wilderness Society. I was at this meeting here in
10 Anchorage where a proposed rule was introduced and I
11 wonder if there was someone here in the audience who
12 can talk a little bit more about that proposed rule or
13 if it's a rule that's in effect already that -- which
14 herd is it -- does it apply to, is it Western Arctic,
15 is it Teshekpuk Lake, is it Porcupine Herd, on the
16 subsistence gathering of certain types of
17 (indiscernible), they're not female or I'm not quite
18 sure I understand the rule very well. I wasn't there
19 when the rule was being talked about, but I did -- I do
20 understand that that rule was passed or that
21 suggestion. And if there's somebody in the audience
22 can share that with the North Slope Advisory Council
23 because it does affect -- that ruling does affect the
24 people of the North Slope and the subsistence -- and
25 their subsistence needs as far as caribou are
26 concerned.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
31 Andy Tooyak, Junior, who is from Point Hope. And we
32 thank you for your concern and I think we have somebody
33 here that might be able to answer some of your concerns
34 or address something.

35

36 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
37 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. I'm not sure if
38 Alex Hansen is still online, but I believe you're
39 talking about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
40 Group meeting. I was in attendance, but if Alex Hansen
41 is online I know he will have significantly more
42 information than I do.

43

44 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Kendra. Yeah,
45 this is Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
46 for the record. So assuming you're talking about the
47 Western Arctic Herd Working Group there was a proposal
48 that was put forth by that group that's still in draft
49 form. The proposal won't go into the Board of Game

50

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1 until May 1st. That won't be addressed by the Board of
2 Game until next January. And we're -- they're also
3 planning on putting forth this proposal to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board which is coming up at some point.

5
6 So the proposal for everyone's
7 understanding was that the recommendation would be for
8 the Western Arctic Herd to reduce harvest bag limit to
9 four caribou per day of which only one may be a cow.
10 So the original proposal came from the Kotzebue Sound
11 Advisory Committee and that was for GMU 23 only. And
12 the Western Arctic Herd adopted that language, however
13 they expressed concern that the Western Arctic Herd
14 obviously occupies more than Unit 23. So their wording
15 was to include the range of the Western Arctic Herd
16 which includes multiple GMUs which can also infect --
17 affect folks up on the North Slope including 26A.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
20 We are on item 10 which is public and tribal comments
21 on nonagenda items. And then their concerns. But we
22 thank you for responding and we thank Andrew. And if
23 there is any -- and before we move on to item 11, old
24 business, do we have any concerns from the outlying
25 communities that are online or entities. We understand
26 that the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is
27 online and with the -- did I hear subsistence. Is
28 there any other concerns dealing with the subsistence
29 or within the Arctic Slope region while we have people
30 online. And like we said we don't have a quorum, we
31 can't take any action items, we can't take -- respond
32 to any proposals without a quorum. Hopefully we will
33 have a quorum tomorrow and able to take action on
34 proposals or anything that comes before us.

35
36 Thank you for your patience.

37
38 Is there any other public comments or
39 concerns that are online within the Arctic Slope
40 region?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There was to
45 take a five, 10 minute break before we go to item 10.
46 Is that okay with everybody? We understand that the
47 restrooms are not working or maybe they are fixed now.
48 The restrooms are back and running so if anybody needs
49 a bathroom break, we've been here since 8:30 so we're
50

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1 going to take a five minute break if that's okay with
2 everybody before we move to item 10.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We will call
11 the meeting back to order from the break. We're going
12 to have the recorder on. Like I stated earlier we did
13 not have a quorum, but we are continuing with our
14 reports and no action will be taken on any items with
15 an asterisk. But we will continue. We were on item 10
16 which is public and tribal comments on nonagenda items.
17 If there's any concerns here in the community of Barter
18 Island or online from the different communities, if you
19 want to come up to the mic if anybody has any concerns
20 that they want to address to the Advisory Council or to
21 people that -- different agencies that are here within
22 the community and online. I think we have a total of
23 30 people online or total.

24

25 Is there any other concerns from the
26 community of Barter Island or dealing with a
27 subsistence life?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: If not we
32 will continue down the agenda. We'll go to item 11
33 which is old business. A is the Western Arctic Caribou
34 Herd update. And can you state your name for the
35 record and who you work for?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, Mr.
40 Chair. This is Carmen Daggett with the North Slope
41 Fish and Game. And Alex Hansen is actually on the line
42 and I'm going to let him speak to it since he's the
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Biologist, he's the most
44 knowledgeable in this matter so I'm going to turn it to
45 him.

46

47 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Carmen, and
48 through the Chair, members of the Council, this is Alex
49 Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue

50

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1 and I work directly with the Western Arctic Caribou
2 Herd. So in your folders or your binders on Page 4,
3 Tab 2, you should find this presentation. I'll give
4 you just a moment to catch up.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, thank
7 you. The floor is yours.

8

9 MR. HANSEN: Okay. On the second slide
10 is says WHA or WHA abundance, Western Arctic Herd. As
11 Mr. Oomittuk mentioned the Western Arctic Herd has been
12 declining for a number of years and as you can see in
13 that slide the most recent count from this summer,
14 2022, was 164,000 which was down from 188,000 last year
15 and 244,000 in 2019.

16

17 If you jump to the next slide this is a
18 graph of abundance over time. You can see that the
19 peak of the population was around 2003, nearly 500,000
20 caribou so basically we've been seeing a steady decline
21 for nearly 20 years.

22

23 And on the next one I'll just walk
24 through some of the surveys that we do and share some
25 of the metrics aside from population estimates. So
26 population estimate or the photocensus is super
27 important to us, it gives us a good understanding of
28 the population in time, but there's a lot of other
29 things that go into understanding population dynamics
30 or growth or decline if you will.

31

32 So the first one we're going to look at
33 is calving. So parturition or calving between 2020 and
34 2022 was 66 percent which is a little bit below the
35 long term average of 70 percent since we've got this
36 recorded in 1992 until now. So we've seen a little bit
37 of a decline in the calving rates and these are based
38 on observations on a calving ground looking at marked
39 or collared individual cows.

40

41 The next slide is recruitment. So
42 recruitment is a measure of the calves that are
43 surviving through the winter, we call these short
44 yearlings. So the short yearling recruitment is 17
45 short yearlings to a hundred adults which is average.
46 And we've kind of been holding that average for a
47 number of years so it's -- we're kind of in line with
48 our long term average, we saw a bit of a spike in 2016,
49 2017 and 2018, but then it went back down to that long
50

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1 term average of about 17 to a hundred. So no serious
2 concerns there. Those calves that are being born are --
3 seem to be making it into the population fairly well.

4
5 Adult survival would be the next slide
6 and this is where we start to get a little bit more
7 concerned. It's -- obviously the adults are the ones
8 that are driving the population, cows especially
9 carrying the population and can really, you know, make
10 changes occur if they survive or not. So adult female
11 survival has been around 71 percent for the past four
12 years on average. And that's a little concerning
13 because if we're going to see growth we need to be
14 above 80, 81 percent. So our long term average is
15 about 81 percent. So to really see growth or at least
16 stability we want to be above 80, 81 percent.

17
18 And the next metric we're going to look
19 at is the bull to cow ratio. So this is an estimate of
20 how many cows there are and bulls, you know, in
21 comparison. So we do this in the falltime and we look
22 at, you know, up to 10,000 individuals just looking at
23 basically groups disbursed across the landscape. So we
24 get a big picture understanding of what the composition
25 looks like. And so our most recent composition survey
26 which was 2021 was 47 bulls to a hundred cows. So
27 through the Western Arctic or Management Plan our goal
28 is to manage for at least 30 bulls to a hundred cows.
29 So no major concerns there. We seem to be in a fairly
30 safe area at least as of the last survey. I was unable
31 to conduct this survey last year due to caribou
32 disbursal and poor weather. So hoping to conduct
33 another fall comp this coming fall.

34
35 The next slide looks at the management
36 level and this was alluded to early in the discussion
37 today. We talked about the Working Group Management
38 Plan and some recommendations that they gave. And
39 these recommendations were based on our current
40 understanding of population and other metrics. So if
41 you can see in that slide it says management level
42 overview, it's a colorful slide and there in -- circled
43 there is preservative decline. So this is the
44 recommendation coming from the Working Group based on
45 population size between 130 and 200,000, and the fact
46 that our recruitment is okay, but our cow survival is
47 low so our harvest recommendation based on that is
48 between six and 10,000.

49
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1 happened, we've seen large swaths of Federal public
2 land be closed. We're not in a position yet where
3 we've limited harvest of cows, but this was a big
4 discussion item at the Working Group where there was a
5 recognition that, you know, there's a potential that
6 our harvest at this point in time could continue to
7 influence decline in this population. And so coming
8 from the Working Group and then also preceded by the
9 Kotzebue Sound AC was this proposal that we mentioned
10 briefly at the start of this meeting. So that was to
11 reduce the harvest bag limit to four caribou per day of
12 which only one may be a cow. And really the big
13 concern is the harvest of cows. So if we're harvesting
14 an excess number of cows, I mean, that's just fewer
15 cows that are going to be able to produce calves. to
16 carry this population through.

17
18 Now obviously there's a lot of other
19 things going on out there, it's not just the harvest of
20 individual hunters out there that's reducing this
21 population, that's certainly not the case. The
22 challenge that we have as managers is we can only, you
23 know, attempt to control so many things and this is one
24 of those things. We have some regulations that can
25 help us as users of the population reduce our harvest.
26 And so this is where that focus was during this
27 meeting.

28
29 So jumping to this next slide this is
30 Western Arctic Herd management, we see that the ANS is
31 combined between the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk which
32 kind of gives us an interesting situation at least on
33 the North Slope for the Teshekpuk regarding -- Carmen
34 can speak to this later, isn't necessarily in the same
35 situation. They're at higher population level as
36 compared to the historic counts than the Western Arctic
37 is right now. The Western Arctic currently is at a
38 level lower than its been in the last 40 years. So
39 really the hope is that we can, you know, really avoid
40 some of this stuff that happened way back in 1977 when
41 this population was at kind of an all time low. And at
42 that time the harvest reduct -- harvest quotas were
43 reduced to 3,000 bulls if memory serves correctly and
44 it was really a challenge for folks. And so if we can,
45 you know, get onboard with whatever we can do to reduce
46 harvest right now a little bit perhaps we can prevent
47 going further in the hole.

48
49 And as I mentioned earlier our annual
50

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1 harvest is an estimate or our best guess has been about
2 12,000 over the years or per year over the last several
3 decades although I suspect that has gone down quite a
4 bit based on lack of access by communities. However my
5 concern here is that if we don't really address this
6 need to cut back on harvest that at times there are,
7 you know, large groups of caribou near communities and
8 it may seem, you know, to those users that there's just
9 a super abundance of caribou and there's no need to
10 conserve. And so I guess the point of this is that we
11 all need to think about this herd as a resource to all
12 40 communities within the range of this herd and share
13 and if the community of Kotzebue for instance has
14 really good access to the caribou they should probably
15 think about conserving them so that the community of
16 Point Hope or the community of Deering has better
17 access or opportunity to harvest into the future.

18
19 And move on to the next slide,
20 management actions. And as I -- I touched on this
21 already, but really the feeling that came out of the
22 Working Group and the AC was that we really need to
23 talk about a net reduction in cow harvest. We can
24 monitor bull/cow ratios, we can afford a little bit
25 more bull harvest for a bit, but we can also get
26 ourselves in a situation if we harvest too many bulls
27 that we start to get in trouble as well. So we need to
28 keep a close eye on that.

29
30 So one of the most important things
31 that we can do as managers of this resource and users
32 of this resource is to get accurate harvest data. The
33 tool that we've been given through the Board of Game is
34 a permit. So within the range of the Western Arctic
35 Herd we have two permits that we use primarily, the
36 RC800 in the southern portion and the RC907 which would
37 be, you know, GMU 23 and then 26A. And unfortunately
38 we haven't had very good participation in this program
39 and so our efforts have certainly been hampered a
40 little bit by the covid as we were out initially really
41 working with the communities to get participation in
42 this so that we could get good harvest data. Now we
43 plan on continuing that however we're certainly open to
44 other ideas and opportunities to collect harvest data
45 and I do know that what's been presented at the North
46 Slope is good harvest data and if they are willing to
47 work with us on that that certainly helps our efforts
48 as we work to manage this population.

49
50

1 So I see that you're going to -- later
2 in the agenda there's an opportunity for a call for
3 wildlife proposals and I would, you know, suggest when
4 you have this opportunity that you might think about,
5 you know, what makes sense in your North Slope
6 communities as far as management for this Western
7 Arctic Herd. And think about the proposals that have
8 been put forth by the Kotzebue Sound AC and also the
9 Working Group and how those might affect users of the
10 Western Arctic Herd. And even I guess more extensively
11 users of all caribou in 26A.

12
13 So as I mentioned we're on to the
14 Western Arctic management challenges. Our
15 participation in the permit program is too low to
16 provide us a good understanding of what harvest is.
17 And so we need to work together, all users of the herd
18 and managers to come up with a better understanding of
19 what this harvest is so that we can see what changes to
20 regulation might do to our population, if anything.

21
22 And jumping on to the next slide which
23 shows harvest reporting and I'm probably beating this
24 drum a little bit too hard, but I feel like it's super
25 important that we get this harvesting reporting under
26 control. As you can see the blue bars there at the
27 bottom are our reported harvest. So the gap in between
28 the blue bars and the orange line is kind of what we
29 guess is unreported. So there's a lot of harvest that
30 takes place within the range of the Western Arctic Herd
31 that was simply unreported. And for various reasons,
32 part of it is, you know, our inability to get out and
33 get those permits into the hands of the people and we
34 continue to work on that. So as we work to come
35 together I think we can bring this gap down
36 significantly and get better data.

37
38 So in summary as I wrap this up and
39 prepare for any comments or questions if anybody has
40 any, I would say that our short yearling recruitment is
41 average, calving below average. Our adult cow survival
42 has been below average for a number of years which is a
43 primary concern. And we need better to understand the
44 harvestable surplus or what is actually available out
45 there for consumption.

46
47 And with that I will be happy to take
48 any questions or comments to the best of my ability and
49 I thank you for your time.

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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
2 Alex.....

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hansen.
7 And we have somebody that has a comment or concern for
8 the update on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, is there
9 somebody online?

10
11 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, this is Brower
12 Frantz.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Can you
15 state your name for the record and where you're at?

16
17 MS. HUGO: Brower Frantz.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.
20 Brower Frantz.

21
22 MR. FRANTZ: Can you hear me? I think
23 your mic is off maybe. I can hear you in the
24 background.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead,
27 you're a Council member.

28
29 MR. FRANTZ: All right.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you
32 for calling in and yeah, the floor is yours if you have
33 a comment to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd update.

34
35 MR. FRANTZ: Yes. Yes, I do. Thank
36 you, Mr. Chair. So I had a couple questions. So I was
37 taking a look at the -- normally the -- well, the
38 normal range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the
39 data at least that I've been looking at from at least
40 observations or friends and family that have been
41 hunting in the areas and normally it's been
42 (indiscernible - distortion) and here, you know, lower
43 the numbers for our communities here I think we -- in
44 my eyes I think it might be some of the lowest numbers
45 out of any of the areas that this herd is hunted. Over
46 the last few years I don't hear too many -- you know,
47 the caribou are too far away or not even near Point Lay
48 or some of the Point Hope folks are, you know, it
49 sounds like there -- there hasn't been a lot of caribou
50

0026

1 activity there. So it's kind of surprising to me that,
2 you know, they're asking for lower numbers for these
3 locations. But what I would ask is where do you think
4 in your eyes as the ones doing the surveys, where do
5 you see the biggest impact of take here because I know
6 there are fly in hunters that get way more access to
7 this herd out of Kotzebue that fly in and fly back out
8 and they're within 60 miles of Point Hope all fall.
9 So, you know, trying to drop the numbers for the local
10 communities doesn't make sense to me when we still have
11 active hunters out there that are commercially flying
12 in from even another region to access it within the
13 North Slope.

14

15 So that -- you know, I would think
16 about doing that. I know they did the whole 23 changes
17 and, you know, that pushed the hunters to fly into the
18 North Slope and I'm not even sure they're permitted to
19 be there. But that's a different issue.

20

21 So where do you think the biggest
22 impact of take is and if it's not the communities of
23 the North Slope then, you know, I would -- I would
24 definitely kind of shy away from pushing for a
25 subsistence limit. So it just doesn't seem like it's
26 there, there's a lot more area where -- that is covered
27 for different takes and also, you know, some of the
28 areas that do take a larger portion like Barrow and,
29 you know, they're from different herds and you said
30 that the Teshekpuk Herd's not in that same situation so
31 why are we pushing for this. So it's -- in my eyes I
32 need to hear more information other than, you know, we
33 just need to lower the numbers, I need info on where
34 you see the largest take because it doesn't seem like
35 it's coming from our communities.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
40 Can you answer that, Alex Hansen or any other agencies
41 online that can address some of the concerns from one
42 of our Council, Brower Frantz out of Barrow dealing
43 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Are you
48 still online, Alex?

49

50

0027

1 MR. HANSEN: Yes. Yeah, sorry about
2 that, had a glitch in my phone. But so just briefly if
3 I can answer your questions there, Brower. Some of the
4 comments that I've heard and I certainly agree with a
5 lot of them is that, you know, that harvest reduction
6 in 26A doesn't necessarily make sense for everyone,
7 it's not a one size fits all thing. That harvest in
8 26A a lot of the communities doesn't even involve the
9 Western Arctic Herd. So reducing harvest for those
10 communities to four caribou per year is significant and
11 largely unnecessary. So I think, you know, through the
12 course of the discussion as this proposal goes in we
13 can bring all that stuff up. And certainly input from
14 your community is going to be super valuable. I don't
15 feel like it would be appropriate to reduce harvest to
16 that level for communities that don't even have access
17 to the Western Arctic Herd.

18
19 So back to another portion of your
20 question, the harvest that takes place from the Western
21 Arctic Herd from the North Slope or from 26A, typically
22 we see that coming out of Wainwright in some years, you
23 know, quite a bit of access there. And occasionally --
24 now this is, you know, kind of on the borderlands
25 there, but Point Hope has pretty good harvest
26 opportunity for the Western Arctic Herd and of course
27 they lie within the boundaries of 23. So, you know, if
28 that closure were just to include 23 and exclude 26A I
29 would say that there's still a fair amount of harvest
30 that could take place out of Wainwright and there could
31 be discussions surrounding opportunities to look at, I
32 don't know, potentially subdividing these units or this
33 unit somehow to perhaps just include harvest that was
34 of the Western Arctic Herd. But that's a discussion
35 for a larger audience and when we have a little bit
36 more time to get into it.

37
38 So I think there's opportunities to
39 adjust that as, you know, this is just a proposal and
40 it's a draft proposal right now, there's a lot of
41 opportunity and time to make changes and suggestions to
42 this and have opportunities to address it. Nothing is
43 set in stone, the Board of Game does not meet until
44 2024, January of '24, so it's a ways yet.

45
46 So I will mention that proposals to any
47 of the Board of Game stuff are due May 1st. So if you
48 folks have interest in that through the State process,
49 the Board of Game, that's the deadline and then also
50

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1 you'll have an opportunity for call for proposals today
2 in this meeting for the Federal side.

3

4

5 And another concern that you addressed,
6 Mr. Brower, was the hunting of nonlocal individuals or
7 nonresidents hunters. And as you mentioned there was a
8 closure of Federal lands in 23 which is something like
9 8 and a half million acres were closed. It's what we
10 saw, this is my perspective, from Kotzebue last year
11 where a lot of this hunting traffic takes place is in
12 the previous years our annual bull harvest averaged
13 about 350 individuals that were taken by nonlocal,
14 nonresident. But with this closure in place two of the
15 main transporters dropped out, they didn't take any
16 hunters at all and there was only one main operator
17 going out into the field. There was another guy that
18 guides bear hunts and they harvested, you know, just a
19 handful of caribou. So my understanding, and we're
20 still waiting for a few reports to come in, is the
21 harvest was probably between 45 and 60 caribou total.
22 So maybe 60 at the most caribou bulls were harvested
23 nonlocal, nonresident which biologically, you know, is
24 very insignificant in the grand scheme of things
25 however I understand the social implications and, you
26 know, what that might look like if we're asking local
27 users to cut back.

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30 So I hope that answers your questions.
31 I will also say that the Working Group is drafting
32 another proposal that was aimed at reducing harvest
33 opportunity or potentially closing nonresident harvest
34 in 23 so that is still out there and that proposal is
35 being developed.

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Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you
for your comments and.....

MR. FRANTZ: Thank you for that
information. And that answered pretty much all of the
questions I had. And just one thing to keep in mind
that it looked like from what they were discussing over
the last meeting was corrections to State and, you
know, the Federal side of keeping subsistence priority
and not changing subsistence until all other avenues
have been taken, i.e., the fly in hunters. So just to
keep that subsistence priority going if there was any
recommendation for changes I would recommend that be

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1 outside of subsistence before getting into changes with
2 subsistence. So that -- there are still guided hunters
3 out there so even if it's a lower number, the numbers I
4 think that you have might be the ones that are
5 complying with permits and things like that and not the
6 ones that are flying in without. Any other
7 information, there are other operators out there that
8 fly in kind of under the radar and it's pretty obvious
9 that they get -- they get discussed from multiple
10 locations, Point Hope being one of them, that there are
11 multiple fly in hunters that are outside of the realm
12 of complying with regulations. But so, you know, there
13 is -- there are the ones that are complying with use
14 similar to people not giving harvest data so there are
15 other hunters that are flying in just to -- and, you
16 know, if you -- but my biggest -- my point being just
17 make sure to keep that subsistence priority. It seems
18 like that was an issue before and they're trying to
19 correct that so make sure to keep that in mind.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
26 Council member Brower Frantz for your concerns and
27 comments.

28

29 Any other comments dealing with the
30 Western Arctic Caribou Herd from our Council, is there
31 anybody else that called in. We have Esther Hugo and
32 myself, Steve Oomittuk, and Brower Frantz, is there
33 anybody else from the Council that called in?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You need to
40 come close to the mic, Esther.

41

42 MS. HUGO: Oh. Gee, I don't like this.
43 Mr. Chair, thank you so much, Brower Frantz, for
44 calling in. And I was just listening to Alex with his
45 presentation. And some of the things that you said,
46 Brower, what will it take. I know this concerns the
47 Western Arctic Herd, but we live in caribou country.
48 The thing that most of the agencies or anybody
49 understand is a long time ago our grandparents, our
50

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1 parents, our uncles, are hunters. They get ready in
2 September knowing that caribou are coming. But
3 nowadays we've got the hunters, the sport hunters with
4 their Piper Cubs. They're the ones that are diverting,
5 they're the ones that are catching what we're waiting
6 for. They -- they get the meat, the one that -- our
7 main diet, they get it before we do because they got
8 access to Piper Cubs, they can land anywhere where it's
9 flat.

10

11 The reason why I'm bringing this up is
12 because last fall we were waiting for caribou or the
13 migration and yes, we did ask for maps, they sent it to
14 us because we have this feeling they're on the way and
15 we know they'll be here and it's been so many years
16 that they've been late. On September 4 they had passed
17 like 25 miles out of Umiat south, heading our way.
18 Yes, almost halfway from Umiat to home where the
19 migration will come. And within a week or so they were
20 all back to where -- way past -- beyond Umiat heading
21 north. That was September 10th. Come to find out
22 there's sport hunters at Umiat because we had asked
23 them not to fuel up, not to land at our airstrip which
24 they haven't done for a couple years, yay, we're so
25 happy because they're either at Coldfoot or at Bettles,
26 that's where they fuel up, that's where they station.
27 And they go up to the NPR-A, the State land. And we're
28 waiting for them, but they're catching them before they
29 even come. Can you guys understand that? Our data
30 says wait, they'll be here September, but nowadays it's
31 harder because the hunters are way ahead and they won't
32 even come until after rutting.

33

34 That's a problem, but, god, who do we
35 go to. We're terrible people, honest to god, and we're
36 having hard time, they're stomping all over us. I've
37 been here since 2009, I'm still talking about it,
38 nothing's been resolved, can't you guys at least listen
39 to us? That's where we're hurting, that's where
40 they're taking what we expect, we have patience because
41 we know they're coming, we were taught by our parents
42 and grandparents. No, you guys don't understand. If
43 you guys just close everything, fly in sport hunters
44 and I'm sure they'll come by like they used to. But
45 they're being caught before they even come to my table
46 to feed my family.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0031

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
2 Esther Hugo. Is there any comments on that from the
3 Fish and Game?

4
5 MR. HANSEN: I can jump in briefly and
6 I certainly understand and sympathize with member Hugo.
7 As a community member here in Kotzebue and GMU 23 I
8 certainly understand the challenges that local people
9 face when they're unable to get caribou as they change
10 their migration patterns and as they change their
11 movements. And we would certainly like to understand,
12 me personally as a researcher and manager of this herd,
13 you know, what influences those migration changes and
14 they certainly do impact local users.

15
16 We've certainly seen a change this year
17 and we see a change every year in migration patterns
18 and movements in the fall. So for instance this year
19 roughly 80 percent of the Western Arctic Herd either
20 stayed in the central Brooks Range or on the North
21 Slope and did not come down into Unit 23 and was not
22 accessible to local users. Last year very different
23 story, about 70 percent of the population was in the
24 Kobuk Valley and if we go back, you know, 10, 15 years
25 ago or maybe not even that far back, about 2017, 2016,
26 70 percent of the population was on the northern Seward
27 Peninsula, around Espenberg.

28
29 So we have seen some dramatic changes
30 in caribou movements in the recent past and a lot of
31 that is not understood, what the reasoning for that is.
32 Some of it we might suspect is -- could be attributed
33 to weather patterns and changes with warmer falls we've
34 seen caribou simply stay put, stay in the mountains and
35 stay on the Slope rather than move. And also as we
36 consider, you know, shrinking of this population, they
37 don't need to occupy as much landscape and as they've,
38 you know, certainly seen a high population for a lot of
39 years, they've consumed a lot of the winter resource on
40 the wintering areas. So a lot of things go into
41 changes in migration patterns and, you know, I would
42 say just very cautiously that, you know, closing all
43 the Federal lands last year, the caribou migrations
44 coming down here into 23 actually were less spectacular
45 than we saw when there was still access up there by
46 nonresident users. Now that's not to say that one
47 thing has anything to do with the other, but there are
48 a lot of things that go into what influences caribou
49 movements and it's very challenging to understand.

50

0032

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. Mr.
4 Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Esther.

7

8 MS. HUGO: Thank you for that info. I
9 just worry that no, you don't understand, but I guess
10 we'll have to work around that as usual.

11

12 We had done two proposals and we've
13 been denied both times. What will it take for my
14 community, my people to listen to -- to come together
15 and listen to our people. I'm sure they'd be saying
16 the same thing I have because we seen and we heard a
17 lot all these years. And we were denied those
18 proposals twice. Now we can try and make a proposal by
19 the 1st. But what will it take, all our concerns just
20 to put food on our table. I forgot to mention the
21 proposals that were denied twice.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you,
24 Esther. Do you have any comments on the concerns on
25 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd or the different -- we
26 know we have the Porcupine Herd and also the Teshekpuk
27 Herd and we do have Fish and Game here, online and we
28 have -- if anybody can respond to any of the questions
29 from the Council that they have they're more than
30 welcome to before I speak as Chairman?

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Through the Chair to the Council members and to Esther
34 Hugo. This is Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of
35 Fish and Game for the record.

36

37 So certainly the proposals that were
38 submitted before that Esther mentioned went through the
39 agenda change request process and the selection
40 criteria to go through an agenda change request through
41 the Board of Game is a more rigorous process when you
42 go -- try to take a proposal out of cycle. However
43 this round of the Board of Game is not out of cycle for
44 the Arctic western region. This is the year where they
45 are specifically addressing Arctic western proposals.
46 And so any proposal that is submitted has to be
47 addressed by the Board of Game, they don't have the
48 chance to not consider the proposal through this
49 particular process.

50

0033

1 So it is my understanding that there is
2 a proposal that the North Slope Borough Wildlife
3 Department is working on to address these concerns
4 particularly pertaining to the Anaktuvuk Pass
5 controlled use area. And I would recommend if you're
6 not already regularly talking with them about that
7 proposal which I'm sure you probably are, that you
8 continue to communicate with them about the specifics
9 of that proposal. And last I knew it's still being
10 drafted. So if you haven't seen that proposal I'd
11 recommend that you get your hands on it and look on it
12 closer, but I'm sure that you were part of drafting it.
13 So I just wanted to make it clear that there's a --
14 there's different processes that these proposals go
15 through when they come up out of cycle and we are in
16 cycle now so the process is different. And I know it's
17 a complicated mess of different things and so I was
18 hoping to clarify that a little bit.

19

20 Does that make sense, Esther, that the
21 -- that we're in Arctic Western cycle now and so they
22 have to take up the proposal, the Board has to address
23 that proposal?

24

25 MS. HUGO: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. DAGGETT: So do you have any other
28 questions about that, can I clarify anything else
29 there?

30

31 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead,
34 Esther, you have a comment on that?

35

36 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Carmen. How do I
37 -- who do I get this done before the 1st, through the
38 RAC -- I mean, not the RAC, Fish and Game?

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
41 member Hugo. So you could do it both ways if you
42 wanted to. The Advisory Committee I believe is going
43 to talk about that proposal -- the Fish and Game
44 Advisory Committee is going to be talking about that
45 proposal in March, the beginning of March, but the RAC
46 could decide to adopt that proposal as well if they
47 wanted to. You could also provide comments in support
48 of that proposal. You have a couple of options. So
49 whatever you want to do with it is in your court, but
50

0034

1 I'm fairly certain that that proposal is going to be
2 submitted and the Wildlife Department has been working
3 on it with Anaktuvuk Pass.

4

5 So yeah, I don't -- that's what I can
6 offer right now, but you have options.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
9 Just for the record, you know, we don't have a quorum
10 here and any proposals that are submitted we can't take
11 action. And I -- if I heard you right it's going to go
12 through in March.....

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: May.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:which
17 is just a few weeks away from here whether we support
18 or not, you know, on behalf of the Regional Advisory
19 Council on the North Slope. Do we have anybody else --
20 hopefully we will have a quorum this afternoon that we
21 can listen to some proposals or tomorrow and make some
22 actions.

23

24 You know, we understand, you know, time
25 limits, but, you know, we have a lot of concerns on our
26 population of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd that
27 migrates one of the longest migrations into the
28 Northwest Arctic Borough and the Norton Sound region
29 and up on the North Slope. And I think there was
30 recent talk because we -- no matter what proposals, you
31 know, we are an Advisory Council and when we put
32 proposals together it goes to the Federal Subsistence
33 Advisory Council which we do get overridden by, you
34 know, within our own communities. And that is not
35 right to us. You know, we have concerns of, you know,
36 the animals that we depend on.

37

38 But, you know -- and, you know, we ask
39 that we see the numbers of nonresidents coming in and
40 hunting whether it's the Western Arctic Caribou Herd or
41 the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd or Porcupine, whether
42 they're nonresidents in Alaska or out of State, you
43 know, the number of permits that are given by the Fish --
44 I don't know if it's the Fish and Game that allows
45 these permits. We would like to see an actual number
46 of the number of permits that are given to whether
47 they're in State, out of State, nonresidents within the
48 North Slope Borough, you know. We want to get that
49 actual number of what is being harvested by
50

0035

1 nonresidents of the North Slope because like what
2 Esther stated, you know, a lot of our food source we
3 depend, you know, Anaktuvuk Pass is an inland community
4 and their main source of food is the caribou. And
5 we're the coastal villages, you know, we have abundance
6 of seals and walrus and whales and polar bears, but we
7 have different Commissions for that.

8
9 But I think in the future reports we'd
10 like to see more permits that are handed out to
11 nonresidents, out of State, especially, you know,
12 coming in and hunting within the different regions.
13 And I think having a joint meeting, I think there was
14 one talked about having invited the Northwest Arctic
15 Borough to the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council
16 meeting if it was to happen in Point Hope, if we have
17 our next meeting and invited the Northwest Arctic
18 Subsistence Advisory Council to that meeting and listen
19 to the proposals that affect the Western Arctic Caribou
20 Herd within Unit 23. Because there is a lot of
21 concerns and especially with the new road system which
22 the Ambler Road to the mine which is in migration route
23 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd going south and
24 north. And as we talked about many times the change of
25 migration of the animals that normally come through the
26 villages that depend on this food source especially the
27 inland people, it's getting rerouted whether by
28 aircraft or road system. We're very rural communities
29 and now this road is going to come all the way to
30 Ambler and it's in the route of those herds.

31
32 And, you know, you always hear about
33 sport hunters, you know, and a lot of our fellow
34 hunters say they see the names on the tail blocked off
35 or tape over them. You know, they might fly into
36 dropping off people above -- within the North Slope on
37 Federal lands, but, you know, sometimes they're flying
38 around, but they can't see their numbers on the tail
39 because they're taped up. And, you know, we don't know
40 if the Fish and Game or the State Troopers are
41 monitoring the aircraft. Nowadays you see -- you can
42 see aircraft flying all over the State, you know,
43 there's the -- you can tell what airlines are within
44 the area. And I think it's something that the State
45 needs to -- you know, if they are going to regulate our
46 way of hunting that we make sure we understand who is
47 coming and going within our territory especially on
48 Federal lands.

49
50

1 And the permits that are handed out and
2 number of permits and how much they're allowed and
3 whether it's bulls or females. You see the decline of
4 all these -- you know, on the Western Arctic Caribou
5 Herd, you know, yearling recruitment average, calving
6 below average, adult cow survival below average,
7 harvestable surplus needs documentary, they don't know
8 the actual harvest, you know. I don't think we ever
9 heard of the number of permits, they say it's a low
10 number, but what is a low number when you have a
11 decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd at 164,000
12 whether it's 10,000 above or 10,000 below, this is an
13 estimated population. And how accurate is that, 10,000
14 above or 10 -- you're talking a 20,000 difference in
15 population. But you're talking a wide range, it says
16 six to 10,000 harvested. That's what when you're
17 dealing with one of the longest migration of the
18 Western Arctic Caribou to the Norton Sound, through the
19 Northwest Arctic Borough, through the North Slope
20 Borough, what is the average of these residents that
21 depend on -- you know, what are they catching, are we
22 going to go over that 6,000 to 10,000 with the number
23 and still have nonresidents and out of State people
24 getting permits, you know, to satisfy themselves they
25 put something on the wall, you know, that says they've
26 been out caribou hunting when, you know, we rely for
27 our meat source. And it's something that we have to
28 address.

29
30 You know, our subsistence way of life
31 is vital to us. We want to ensure that it's protected
32 and that we have all right of way to the animals that
33 we depend on especially if there's a decline. And then
34 maybe in the future we can look at reinstating these
35 permits, whether they're out of State, in State
36 nonresidents. Because, you know, we have a lot of
37 Native people that are nonresidents that are from our
38 community that can't come home and go hunting because
39 they're nonresidents, but they might be from the area.
40 But we -- you know, we're concerned of the population
41 too of the herds in decline.

42
43 But thank you. We -- you know, we just
44 keep going in a circle and we keep go -- getting
45 overridden by the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council
46 and that's something that needs to stop, they need to
47 listen to the people more because we're here year round
48 and we know the animals that we depend on, we know
49 their decline, we know their sicknesses. We're here
50

0037

1 seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
2 since time immemorial. So it's time that the agencies
3 listen to the people that know it best.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 Any other questions out there, we are
8 under Western Arctic Caribou Herd update. Any other
9 Council comments or concerns or replies to the update?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
14 none, we're going to go down the agenda. We do have
15 concerns later on, we still have another day and like I
16 said, you know, any proposals or action items until we
17 have a quorum hopefully we'll have one this afternoon
18 or tomorrow morning. We know it's -- after lunch we
19 are on item 11 which is old business. We just got done
20 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd update and we do
21 have a follow-up on the North American Caribou Working
22 Group Arctic Ungulate Conference that was held in May.
23 If there's any suggestion we can listen to this before
24 we go on our lunch break. Is there anything else on
25 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd before we move to the
26 workshop, follow-up on the North American Caribou
27 Workshop?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
32 none, we'll go to item B. And the floor is yours. Can
33 you speak your name and who you work with, then we will
34 go to lunch break afterwards if that's okay with
35 everybody.

36

37 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 This is Kendra Holman, I'm.....

39

40 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Get closer
41 to the mic.

42

43 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
44 name is Kendra Holman and I'm the Wildlife Biologist
45 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I will make
46 this as short as I can.

47

48 So during the fall, 2022 meeting you
49 heard about the caribou and ungulate conference taking

50

0038

1 place in Anchorage this coming May. All Councils
2 nominated one member to attend the conference and
3 provide input.....

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Speak into the
6 mic, please.

7
8 MS. HOLMAN: Is this any better? I
9 don't -- I don't know if I can get any closer. I think
10 it's my angle.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There, sounds
13 better. That's better.

14
15 MS. HOLMAN: Does this one work any
16 better?

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

19
20 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So all Councils
21 nominated one member to attend the conference and
22 provide input into an Alaska Ungulate Management
23 Symposium. From this Council member Esther Hugo was
24 nominated to attend. An informational flyer on the
25 Council -- on this conference can be found in your
26 meeting book on Page 13.

27
28 Before I proceed would any Council
29 members like an overview of the conference?

30
31 MS. GILL: Council members, that one
32 can be found in the bound book, the one with the fancy
33 picture on the front.

34
35 MS. HUGO: Page what?

36
37 MS. GILL: Page 13.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah. Are
40 there any comments or questions on the 2023 North
41 American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
42 conference that was held in Anchorage May 8th to the
43 12th of 2023?

44
45 Is this with the Western Arctic Caribou
46 Herd Working Group, also were they involved in this
47 conference?

48
49 MS. HOLMAN: So I'm not sure if the
50

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1 Western Arctic Caribou Herd specifically is involved in
2 this at all. This is pretty -- parts of this
3 conference are going to be attended from people
4 worldwide as well as people.....

5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
7 Is there any questions or concerns on this from the
8 Council?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Brower
13 Frantz, are you still online?

14
15 MR. FRANTZ: I'm still online, yes. I
16 don't have any questions.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.
21 Esther Hugo, do you have any comments or concerns
22 on.....

23
24 MS. HUGO: No, Mr. Chair, not as -- not
25 right now, but maybe later.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
28 Any of the different agencies have any comments or
29 concerns on this North American Caribou Workshop or
30 Arctic Ungulate Conference that was -- is it a joint
31 conference?

32
33 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, it's a
34 joint conference. So on Page 14 of your meeting book
35 you can find a summary of all the potential topics
36 suggested by the different Councils for discussion at
37 the State and Federal Ungulate Management which is what
38 Ms. Hugo will be attending for that symposium. This
39 session is intended to be a neutral forum for Council
40 members, State Fish and Game Advisory Committee
41 members, National Park System Subsistence Resource
42 Commission members, Federal and State agency Staff and
43 other parties to discuss the ungulate management within
44 Alaska, specifically regarding harvest regulations.

45
46 OSM Staff -- excuse me. During the
47 2022 meeting cycle the Council provided input into
48 potential topics to discuss during this symposium and
49 several Councils asked for a follow-up summary during
50

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1 their winter meetings. Councils are now being asked to
2 review this list and provide additional feedback for
3 this symposium. So that was on Page 14.

4
5 The OSM Staff will then decide which
6 topics will be discussed during the symposium based on
7 feedback from all 10 Councils, prioritizing topics that
8 are relevant Statewide and applicable to all regions
9 and all Councils.

10
11 Now, Mr. Chair, I turn this back over
12 to you for any discussion. Any feedback will be very
13 helpful to help finalize the discussion topics for the
14 symposium.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
17 Any questions or feedback to the State and Federal
18 Ungulate Management and Alaska Symposium?

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And then,
23 you know, I was just looking at some of the potential
24 topics, is that what you're talking about, is that what
25 was talked about in the workshop that was held in May?

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You know, a
30 lot of the workshops for the northern people that
31 happened in May which is a very busy time for the
32 people on the North Slope because of the whaling and a
33 lot of them don't attend these workshops because of the
34 whaling being the center of our way of life. And then
35 during the hunting season of the seals and the
36 walruses. So and unfortunately a lot of us miss these
37 certain conferences because we are obligated to our way
38 of life especially with subsistence hunting.

39
40 And I was looking at your topics, you
41 know, of how biological data is collected and stuff
42 like that, you know, to the different communities. And
43 you're talking about the antler impact of antler
44 restrictions in moose and the harvest management on
45 there is one of the topics. You know, a lot of times,
46 you know, we don't take the antlers home with us, you
47 know, because they're just too much on the way for us,
48 we mainly take the meat and the skin of the different
49 animals that we harvest. But we're always -- we can't
50

0041

1 take the head from an animal, our ancestors, our
2 elderly always told us to point the head to our
3 community so that the animals know where we came from
4 and will continue coming to our communities. And
5 that's something, you know, we don't -- we might take
6 the tongue out of the caribou or -- we don't catch
7 moose very often in our area, very rarely, but the
8 caribou.

9

10 But we thank you for your report and if
11 there's no other questions or comments on this then we
12 will move down the agenda and take a lunch break. But
13 we thank you for coming and hopefully we'll get more
14 information on this in the future. It's something new
15 to us, I think that's -- and I just recently got my
16 booklet so I'm sorry I didn't read up ahead of time
17 before I got it.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 Is there any comments or questions on
22 this topic before we break for lunch?

23

24 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, I just
25 wanted to clarify a couple of things here real quick.
26 This conference is this coming May so it has not
27 happened yet. Member Esther Hugo.....

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Oh, May?

30

31 MS. HUGO: May.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: May of 2023.

34 Okay.

35

36 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, this year.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

39

40 MS. HOLMAN: Member Esther Hugo will be
41 in attendance. She has been nominated by.....

42

43 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.
44 Sorry, I misunderstood that. I -- after I saw 2023 I
45 thought it was 2022, you know, so I -- so it's an
46 upcoming conference in May of 2023 between -- is that
47 the 23rd, is that what the -- I'm trying to find it
48 back in there again.

49

50

0042

1 MS. HOLMAN: May 8th through the 12th,
2 Mr. Chair. May 8th through the 12th of this year.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: May 8 to the
5 12th. So are you inviting people to this conference
6 whether they're -- I mentioned I heard you say Advisory
7 Councils and it's something that, you know, something
8 that we might want to attend, but like we said we don't
9 have a quorum to address anything or, you know, we --
10 it would be something that we would be looking forward
11 to going to, this conference, but we can't take any
12 action. And we will work with Jessica or anybody that
13 can give us that information if we don't come up with a
14 quorum this afternoon or tomorrow.

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, at the fall
17 meeting that was voted on at that time. Member Esther
18 Hugo was nominated to be the representative from the
19 North Slope Regional Advisory Council to attend this
20 meeting. Anyone is invited to attend the meeting,
21 preregistration is open. We encourage and would love
22 to see as many people coming as possible. That one
23 member, their -- Esther's travel and attendance at this
24 conference is being covered by the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, however we can only cover that
26 for one person. So we would love to see as many people
27 there as possible, it's a great opportunity, it hasn't
28 been held here in Alaska in I believe close to 15
29 years. So this is a great opportunity for Alaskans to
30 attend if you have the financial capability or have
31 someone that can help you make it there.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you
34 for that. I -- I had a little trouble understanding
35 ungulate, you know, it's something that I never heard
36 before or understand. It's a different -- you know,
37 conference. Can you explain that a little bit?

38
39 MS. HOLMAN: So ungulate animals have
40 -- yeah, mammals that have four legs so your moose,
41 your caribou, your muskox, your sheep. I think that's
42 pretty much most of the ones here in Alaska. So all of
43 those will be -- there will be education seminars,
44 different things happening regarding those species of
45 animals both within Alaska and around the world.

46
47 MR. VICKERS: Not predators though.

48
49 MS. HOLMAN: No, not predators.

50

0043

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank
2 you. And like we stated earlier for a lot of our
3 coastal villages that are on the Advisory Councils, May
4 is a busy time of the year for us. And we're very
5 committed to our way of life, especially in the whaling
6 societies. And May is a very busy time out on the ice,
7 harvesting the whale and the seals in the waters is at
8 that time. So I'm -- Esther Hugo named. And so I
9 think Jessica will work with her and if she wants to
10 attend the conference she will probably get with you
11 then. And in the near future -- May is going to come
12 pretty quick I think.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So but thank
17 you for your report and comments. I need to look at
18 the paperwork more often and bring my bifocals so I can
19 see the year, 2023 has snuck up on me and so looking at
20 2022 sometimes.

21
22 But thank you. Is there any other
23 comments before we move -- go on a lunch break for an
24 hour. The time is.....

25
26 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, it is 12:25 to we
27 could come back at 1:30.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So there's a
30 request that we go on a lunch break until 1:30 p.m. It
31 is 12:25 p.m.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (On record)

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.
40 Taikuu. We are back from lunch. We will reconvene our
41 North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting back to
42 order. It is 1:38 p.m. on February 22nd, 2023.

43
44 We need to do a roll call vote to see
45 if we can establish quorum to go back to some action
46 items that we missed earlier.

47
48 So can you do a roll call to see if we
49 have a quorum, Jessica?

50

0044

1 MS. GILL: Yes.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.

4

5 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All
6 right. Where are we at. I'm just trying to get
7 another Council member on the phone here, just trying
8 to get that taken care of. But here I'll do a little
9 roll call here.

10

11 Do we have Gordon Brower from Utqiagvik
12 on?

13

14 (Not present)

15

16 MS. GILL: Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk?

17

18 (Not present)

19

20 MS. GILL: Steve Oomittuk from Point
21 Hope?

22

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Here.

24

25 MS. GILL: Great. Thank you. Edward
26 Rexford from Point or sorry, Kaktovik?

27

28 (Not present)

29

30 MS. GILL: Martha Itta from Nuiqsut.

31

32 MS. ITTA: Good afternoon everyone.

33

34 MS. GILL: Good afternoon, Martha.

35

36 Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass.

37

38 MS. HUGO: I'm here.

39

40 MS. GILL: Thank you, Esther.

41

42 Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik.

43

44 MR. FRANTZ: Good afternoon. I'm here.

45

46 MS. GILL: Hi, there. All right.

47

48 And Peter Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass.

49

50

0045

1 (Not present)

2

3 MS. GILL: All right. Did we get Wanda
4 to call in.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: I think she's going to
7 call my phone and we're going to set her up with a mic.

8

9 MS. GILL: Oh, okay. That sounds
10 great.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Sorry
15 for the delay. We need one more for a quorum and we do
16 have some action items. They're trying to get Wanda
17 Kippi on the line. We understand that some are
18 traveling, but we do need one more for a quorum. So we
19 can hold off just a few more minutes so we can
20 establish a quorum to continue with our agenda.

21

22 Thank you for your patience.

23

24 We want to welcome and thank Kaktovik
25 and the residents for hosting us here.

26

27 Thank you. Taikuu. It's good to see
28 you.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good to see you
31 too.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We have all
34 kinds of goodies over there.

35

36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair, I am
41 sorry, but we cannot hear you online very well.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. What
44 about now, can you hear me okay now?

45

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, that's much
47 better. Thank you very much.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank

50

0046

1 you. Did Wanda Kippi or Peter Williams call in, Edward
2 Rexford?

3

4 MS. GILL: Wanda's.....

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We do need
7 one more for a quorum to go onto our action items.

8

9 When we left off before lunch time we
10 were on item 12, new business. If we don't establish a
11 quorum we'll continue where we left off until we have a
12 quorum and listen to the wildlife closure reviews which
13 is a nonaction item.

14

15 We'll give them a couple more minutes.
16 We're trying to get Wanda Kippi online so we can have a
17 quorum.

18

19 Thank you for your patience.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Did somebody
24 just join us, is that Wanda online?

25

26 MS. HYER: No, it was me, Karen.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank
29 you. Welcome back.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We do
34 have Wanda Kippi online, on the cell phone.

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, Wanda, I'm going to
37 control the mic for you so if you have something to say
38 just let me know and then I'll turn the mic on for you,
39 okay?

40

41 MS. KIPPI: Okay. And how do I let you
42 know?

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: I'll be able to hear you,
45 it's just that the rest of the room won't be able to
46 hear you, okay?

47

48 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Sounds good.

49

50

0047

1 MS. DAGGETT: All right.

2

3 MS. KIPPI: Yeah.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Cool. And can you hear
6 everybody else? Steve, you want to try again?

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Can you try
9 holding the phone to the mic?

10

11 REPORTER: I couldn't hear what she
12 said, I heard her talking, but I couldn't.....

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Hey, Wanda, why
15 don't you be -- try to get as loud as you can when you
16 talk on the phone. Can we just -- we're just going to
17 do a test here to see if we can get the sound up as
18 much as possible. So go ahead and maybe just do a
19 testing, testing or introduce yourself or something.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: Hello, this is Wanda Kippi
22 from Atqasuk, do you copy?

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. We're going to
25 make some adjustments here. Try again.

26

27 MS. KIPPI: Hello, hello, hello.
28 Testing, testing.

29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Cool. All right.

31

32 MS. KIPPI: You guys are pretty quiet,
33 I can barely hear you on my cell.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT: We're being pretty quiet
36 here right now so.....

37

38 MS. KIPPI: Okay.

39

40 MS. DAGGETT:but can you hear me
41 pretty good?

42

43 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, I can hear you, but
44 it's pretty low.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Just encourage
47 everybody to be powerful voices.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you

50

0048

1 for calling in, Wanda. We were on the roll call and we
2 do have four on line and we needed one more a quorum.
3 We have Steve Oomittuk, myself, Martha Itta, Esther
4 Hugo and Brower Frantz.

5

6 If you want to continue with your roll
7 call.

8

9 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
10 you. So for the record this is Jessica Gill, Council
11 Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management.

12

13

14 So I've got -- I don't believe Gordon
15 is online, but, Wanda Kippi, are you here?

16

17

MS. KIPPI: Here.

18

19

MS. GILL: Great. Thank you.

20

21

Steve Oomittuk.

22

23

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Here.

24

25

MS. GILL: Thank you.

26

27

Eddie Rexford.

28

29

(Not present)

30

31

MS. GILL: Martha Itta.

32

33

MS. ITTA: Good afternoon. I'm here.

34

35

MS. GILL: Thank you, Martha.

36

37

Esther Hugo.

38

39

MS. HUGO: Here.

40

41

MS. GILL: Thank you, Esther.

42

43

Brower Frantz.

44

45

MR. FRANTZ: Here.

46

47

MS. GILL: Great. Thank you.

48

49

Peter Williams.

50

0049

1 (Not present)

2

3

4

5

6

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MS. GILL: All right. Well, Mr. Chair, we have five of eight seated Council member or Council members seated so we are -- we've got a quorum.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you. Taikuu for calling in.

We are on item 12, but we're going to go back to the beginning of our agenda where action items were skipped because we did not have a quorum. So we have established quorum and we're going to continue with our agenda. It is March 22nd, we are on Barter Island.

Okay. We are on review and adoption of agenda for March 22nd. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda as presented for February 22, 2023, Barter Island. Is there a motion.

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to accept the agenda for February 22, 2023.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion by Esther Hugo. Is there a second.

MR. FRANTZ: Seconded.

MS. ITTA: I second it.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded by Wanda. Any.....

MS. HUGO: Martha.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:discussion?

MS. ITTA: Martha, Nuiqsut.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Martha. Okay. Sorry about that. Any discussion or changes to the agenda?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. All in favor of approval of agenda say aye.

0050

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed,
4 likewise.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
9 none, motion carries. We have an agenda.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 We'll go to item 7 which is election of
14 officers. We have a Chair and we have a Vice Chair and
15 a Secretary. So we go to -- is there any nominations
16 for Chairperson for the Subsistence Advisory Council?

17

18 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, if I -- I've got
19 just a little bit. This is Jessica Gill. I am the
20 Council Coordinator for the North Slope Regional
21 Advisory Council, I'm going to -- got to run this part
22 of the thing.

23

24 So in accordance with the Council
25 charter, Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair
26 and a Secretary for a one year term. The terms usually
27 starts at the beginning of the calendar year.

28

29 Now I'd like to open the floor for
30 nominations for Council Chair. These nominations do
31 not need to be seconded. Are there any nominations for
32 the Chair position?

33

34 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is there any
35 nominations for the Chair?

36

37 MS. ITTA: Yes, I -- Martha here. I
38 nominate Steve Oomittuk. Nuiqsut.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.
41 There's a nomination for Steve Oomittuk, is there any
42 other nominations.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I would like to
47 make that a unanimous vote for Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There is a

50

0051

1 consent for unanimous consent from Esther Hugo. Is
2 there anybody opposed to that.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing
7 none, I guess we got a unanimous consent. I will do
8 the best, it's been a while. I've Chaired a few
9 meetings, but I wasn't prepared for this, but thank
10 you.

11

12 (Laughter and applause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So we will go down
15 the line and I thank you very much and I will do the
16 best I can. And I'm -- I really do enjoy being on this
17 Committee, understanding that subsistence is our way of
18 life and that we are here to ensure that it continues
19 to the next generation and to protect our way of life.

20

21 And thank you.

22

23 Okay. We have an opening for the Vice
24 Chair. Is there any nominations for the Vice Chair.

25

26 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes. Is that
29 Wanda?

30

31 MS. KIPPI: Yes. I nominate Gordon
32 Brower for Vice Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a
35 nomination for Gordon Brower. Is there any other
36 nominations.

37

38 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I nominate Brower
39 Frantz.

40

41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion to
42 nominate Brower Frantz. Any other nominations.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is there a closure
47 of the nominations.

48

49 MS. HUGO: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I make a
50

0052

1 motion to close the nominations for Vice Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion to
4 close nominations for Vice Chair. Is there a second.

5

6 MS. ITTA: Seconded.

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded. All in
9 favor of closure say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed say
14 nay.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. With our
19 closure we have Gordon Brower and Brower Frantz. And
20 if you want to vote whether you do it all in favor of --
21 I don't know if we need to do -- we do have a quorum
22 of five. All in favor, I don't know, will you -- do we
23 do it publicly or by a secret ballot or.....

24

25 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So my
26 understanding is the best way to do this is to vote for
27 one person and then vote for another, but do a roll
28 call vote.

29

30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Just do it
31 right on the.....

32

33 MS. GILL: Uh-huh. Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We will move
36 right down the line here. We'll vote. All in favor
37 Gordon Brower as Vice Chair can you state your name and
38 aye?

39

40 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, it might be
41 better if I go down the line, that might be easier.

42

43 All right. So the vote for Gordon
44 Brower as Vice Chair. Do I have Wanda Kippi?

45

46 MS. KIPPI: Yes.

47

48 MS. GILL: Great. Thank you. For Vice
49 Chair do I have Steve Oomittuk?

50

0053

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

2

3 MS. GILL: For Gordon for Vice Chair do
4 I have Esther Hugo?

5

6 MS. HUGO: No.

7

8 MS. GILL: No. Okay. All right. Do I
9 have for Vice Chair for Gordon as Gordon Brower, do I
10 have a vote for -- from Brower Frantz?

11

12 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry. I'm confused on
13 that. Was that a yes or a no or a -- never been
14 through the nomination tie before, but I guess I'll put
15 -- no, I'll go with Wanda. Or, I mean, not Wanda,
16 Esther. I mean, with her. I'll go with a no for
17 Gordon.

18

19 MS. GILL: All right. Thank you,
20 Brower. Sorry, yes, it's confusing.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MS. GILL: All right. And we have one
25 more vote from Martha Itta.

26

27 MS. ITTA: Yes for Gordon.

28

29 MS. GILL: All right. Thank you
30 Martha. All right. So I've got three votes for Gordon
31 and two no votes for Gordon Brower. So I think
32 nomination for Vice Chair is for Gordon.

33

34 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. And we
35 will let Gordon know. And thank you, everybody.

36

37 We have nominations for Secretary. Is
38 there any nomination for Secretary for the North Slope
39 Subsistence Advisory Council, one year term?

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, Mr.
42 Chair. We're having a hard time hearing you again.

43

44 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We have the
45 floor open for nominations for Secretary for the North
46 Slope Subsistence Advisory Council for a one year term.

47

48 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I nominate Brower
49 Frantz, unanimous consent.

50

0054

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion on
2 the floor to nominate Brower Frantz and ask for
3 unanimous consent. Is there any objections.

4
5 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I object and I'd
6 like to nominate Wanda Kippi.

7
8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a
9 nomination for Wanda Kippi. Any other nominations?

10
11 MS. ITTA: I make a motion to close the
12 nominations, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion to
15 close nominations. Is there a second.

16
17 MS. HUGO: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. It's been
20 seconded. Any discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: All in favor of
25 closing nominations say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
30 sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
35 motion carries. With that closure we have Brower
36 Frantz and Wanda Kippi for Secretary. And we will have
37 our Coordinator go down the line, Jessica, for your
38 vote.

39
40 MS. GILL: Thanks. I'll try to make
41 this a little bit more clear this time. So we're
42 voting for Brower, a yay or nay vote for Brower Frantz
43 as Secretary. So I'll go down the line here.

44
45 Wanda Kippi.

46
47 MS. KIPPI: Yay.

48
49 MS. GILL: Thank you, Wanda.
50

0055

1 Steve Oomittuk.

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

4

5 MS. GILL: Thank you.

6

7 Do I have Martha Itta.

8

9 MS. ITTA: No.

10

11 MS. GILL: And do I have Brower Frantz.

12

13 MR. FRANTZ: Yes.

14

15 MS. GILL: And Esther Hugo is our last
16 vote.

17

18 MS. HUGO: Yes, Brower Frantz.

19

20 MS. GILL: All right. So it looks like
21 the yeses have it. So Brower will be our new
22 Secretary.

23

24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. And
25 Brower Frantz, Secretary for the North Slope
26 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

27

28 Thank you all. Any comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none, we'll
33 go down to item 8 which is an action item, review and
34 approval of previous meeting minutes. But I don't see
35 a date of which you -- do you have meeting minutes, I
36 don't see the date on the agenda.....

37

38 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:of which
41 minutes we are approving.

42

43 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
44 so the meeting minutes we have are from October 13th
45 and 14th, 2022. It's in your bound book on page number
46 5, the draft Council meeting minutes from fall, 2022.
47 This was a meeting held at the Inupiat Heritage Center
48 in Utqiagvik last fall, in October.

49

50

0056

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Jessica.
2 I think in the future when we do have the agenda that
3 it is posted on the agenda for the meeting minutes to
4 be approved.

5
6 So we have meeting minutes of October
7 13 and 14, 2022 which was held in Utqiagvik at the
8 Inupiat Heritage Center. Is there a motion to adopt
9 the meeting minutes of October 13 and 14, of 2022.

10
11 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I make a motion
12 to approve the minutes for October 13 and 14, 2022.

13
14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion by
15 Esther to adopt the meeting minutes. Is there a
16 second.

17
18 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion, Wanda.

19
20 MS. ITTA: Seconded, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is that Martha or
23 is that Wanda? Okay. Wanda Kippi.

24
25 MS. ITTA: Martha.

26
27 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Seconded by
28 Wanda. Any discussion or changes or corrections to the
29 meeting minutes of.....

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33
34 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, just real quick,
35 I'd like to remind everyone online if you could please
36 mute your phone, we're getting a lot of feedback from a
37 speed dial or something, we're not really sure what's
38 going on here, but it's a little distracting.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. DAGGETT: Star, six.

43
44 MS. GILL: Yeah, star, six if you need
45 to mute yourself if you don't have a mute button on
46 your phone.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0057

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. We're
5 still under discussion on the meeting minutes of
6 October 13 and 14, 2022. There was a motion and
7 second, any discussion or corrections.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. HUGO: Question.

12
13 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
14 called for.

15
16 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I call for
17 question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Questions been
20 called for. All in favor of approval of the meeting
21 minutes of October 13 and 14, 2022 say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed say
26 nay.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
31 motion carries. We have meeting minutes approved for
32 October 13 and 14, 2022.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. So we'll
37 continue on, we've had a second.....

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We're having some
42 technical difficulties, we've got to wait a few
43 minutes. Thank you for your patience.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you.
48 We are back online and the recorder is on and we were
49 under approval of minutes for October 13 and 14, 2022.

50

0058

1 There was a motion and seconded and it was adopted.

2

3

4 And then we will move on to the next
5 item. We had reports and during that time the reports
6 were only from Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope and in
7 Barrow, Brower Frantz. Wanda Kippi, do you have any
8 report for the Regional Advisory Subsistence Council or
9 concerns.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, I just wanted to
11 comment on our caribou and wolves. We had quite a bit
12 of wolves during the late summer and freeze up -- until
13 way past freeze up. They were coming into town.
14 And I went to camp during October, end of October,
15 middle of October and I had seen -- I had one amaguq
16 going just like a few miles out of town. Then I think
17 it -- after we kept on going -- after I kept on going
18 it went -- I think it came back -- came towards town.
19 And then a few days later back from ice fishing I saw
20 some glowing eyes and I didn't know if it was amaguq or
21 not, but those were big glowing eyes on -- not very
22 far, right in our camping grounds, right near the
23 cabins. And I decided to go get my night vision, I
24 took too long to get the batteries in the night vision
25 and just when I asked my grandson where it was at he
26 pointed towards the direction -- almost towards town.
27 And I got a glimpse of the eye only, I didn't see
28 nothing else and that was one big eyeball. So I'm
29 wondering how big the glow of the wolf's -- amaguq's
30 eyes are at night.

31

32 And then the caribou was okay, the
33 fishing was fine. The -- besides those amaguqs I think
34 people caught two of them within our community, they
35 kept coming into town. And I think after November of
36 beginning of November or somewhere around there they
37 finally left our community area and most have moved on.
38 They must have been hungry because they were -- one
39 that one hunter caught was really hungry looking, I
40 mean, thin.

41

42 But the hunting was okay, there was
43 some caribou that weren't -- not very many, but enough
44 to catch I guess, but it took a while. I didn't see as
45 many as I usually do around our camping grounds,
46 caribou. So the wolves scared all the caribou around
47 our area during those times we usually go hunting for
48 them.

49

50

0059

1 And I don't think I have anything --
2 oh, and the ice conditions on the -- by the cabins,
3 around the cabin area there was open water and there
4 was real thin ice. And that was the first time in a
5 long time that I have seen that.

6
7 Other than that that's all I have, Mr.
8 Chair.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Wanda,
13 for the report and comments and concerns. Is there
14 anybody -- you know, we know the abundance of predators
15 are high in the recent years. You know, we -- we're
16 not used to catching so many wolves in our areas and
17 wolverines, whether it's the younger hunters going
18 after them with snowmachines more, but throughout the
19 whole North Slope we've been an abundance of predators
20 and decline of certain animals and herds.

21 But thank you. If anybody wants to
22 comment on that from the agencies on concerns that --
23 from Atqasuk before we move to the next community?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Martha
28 Itta, Nuiqsut, do you have.....

29
30 MS. ITTA: Yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:comments,
33 concerns or a report?

34
35 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
36 I do. I have a few things to share and voice.

37
38 In regards to the caribou and the
39 amaguqs and how they fare. We have -- right now all
40 the caribou are around between here -- all around right
41 now because there's a lot of wolves and wolverines out
42 there on the northwest to the south side. There's --
43 so all the caribou are around Nuiqsut right now. Some
44 hunters are getting some.

45
46 With the fishing it was pretty scary
47 this year as the river keep freezing and having
48 overflow, you know, thawing out. We had a couple of
49 close calls with fishermen almost falling and trying to
50

0060

1 get to their nets along with those fisheries that were
2 helping, they were here and they -- and we were really
3 glad that they were here monitoring that and helping
4 the community out.

5

6 Climate change and the thawing. The
7 permafrost is so thawed out it's -- we're having late
8 fishing. Usually we go (in Native), burbot fishing in
9 November soon as it's frozen, but it started this
10 month, they just finally was able to get out there just
11 this past weekend. So people are finally fishing for
12 (in Native) right now. Happy people to, you know, and
13 excited to go fishing for (in Native). So those are
14 our fishing issue is there's a lot of water in the
15 river.

16

17 And the other things I wanted to voice
18 out is on the subsistence side and our community
19 members having -- you know, there's been a lot of
20 concerns and discussions about people going hungry and
21 not being able to get what -- you know, the -- enough
22 food that they need. And I would like to support that
23 statement because not everybody -- I mean, the
24 abundance is there, the animals are there, but not
25 everybody have the resources like snowmachines,
26 vehicles, four-wheelers to go out there. People
27 struggle paycheck to paycheck. And the problem -- a
28 lot of the problems we have is, you know.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Are you still
31 there, Martha, or you got cut off?

32

33 MS. ITTA: enough for the
34 community. So, you know, not -- a lot of the families
35 not having that resource of -- you know, they have the
36 knowledge of hunting, they just don't have that
37 resource to get out there especially, you know, at cold
38 temperatures like today. And so I would like to, you
39 know, and the store cost is so high, you know, I,
40 myself, as a community member hunter/fisherman, I go
41 all year, you know, even what I get is not enough to
42 provide for my family because I have to share with
43 other people because they're hungry. You know, I just
44 gave a lot of my meat out yesterday because they had
45 nothing to eat and they couldn't afford to go to the
46 store. So when people say they're hungry it's not an
47 understatement, they are actually going hungry because
48 they don't have those resources like most -- you know,
49 like our hunters do. And a lot of them depend on us

50

0061

1 hunters. So we have to get more than what we usually
2 do just for our families.

3

4 You know, our diet is related to our,
5 you know, subsistence. 80 percent of the community --
6 you know, 80 percent of our diet depends on
7 subsistence. And I -- you know, I don't want to go off
8 track, but it's all subsistence related to our health
9 and this -- you know, losing our young people at a
10 young age because they have no idea what to do or how
11 to get out there. They have -- they're determined to
12 go out hunting and help and stuff, but, you know, their
13 subsistence when they can't -- when they're not able to
14 do it, it takes ahold on their mind and their well
15 being and their -- who they are. And I've seen that a
16 lot in my community, you know, because it's -- we
17 depend on subsistence for survival and if we don't have
18 that it really affects our mentality, our physical --
19 you know, our physical being, our well being. So after
20 losing such young boys, not knowing what to do or how
21 to live, you know, not having those resources. That's
22 a concern that I have.

23

24 Other than with the caribou, you know,
25 there's abundance of it, but they're right by the
26 pipeline and we're restricted. We cannot shoot guns in
27 those areas so when they come in there's a lot of
28 caribou that goes right next to the pipeline and we're
29 unable to get those. But, you know, we have to travel
30 further out and make sure they're away from the
31 pipeline. So we're kind of restricted, you know, even
32 though the abundance is there.

33

34 Other than that it's good to have the
35 cold still here and I hope it stays a while because
36 we're just starting our (in Native) fishing.

37

38 And, Mr. Chair, I believe that's all I
39 have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

40

41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: All right. Taikuu,
42 Martha. And you -- you know, we know you -- Nuiqsut
43 has a lot of industry and Alpine and the pipeline and,
44 you know, we hear a lot of stories about the impact it
45 has on certain people that have trouble getting around
46 especially further out.

47

48 But does any of the Council or anybody
49 have comments on that, and the regulations they have on
50

0062

1 how far away do you have to be from the pipeline or
2 certain areas and the impact it has on subsistence
3 hunting especially with industry right in your
4 neighborhood?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Martha.
9 I think, you know, I think Fenton is going to -- we had
10 Barter Island and concerns after we listen to the
11 Council then we'll open it to Barter Island for any
12 concerns they have on subsistence issues.

13

14 Thank you for your report.

15

16 Brower Frantz, did you have anything to
17 add on to your report.

18

19 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I've got just a few
20 items, nothing too big. But as far as caribou in our
21 area, there seems to be kind of an abundance. I
22 wouldn't say a real abundance, but they are there and
23 they're spotted here and there between Atqasuk and
24 here.

25

26 And it does seem like there are higher
27 rates of predators being caught closer to town. And
28 I'm guessing it was in relation to the caribou being
29 pushed north. And but there has been quite a few -- a
30 number of wolves and wolverine caught this year so I
31 would say they're definitely either moving up north or
32 there's a higher population, one of the two.

33

34 But it's been a late winter, it is cold
35 now, but generally speaking over the last few months or
36 pretty much the entire winter season has been warmer
37 than usual for the -- the long term has been pretty
38 warm. The last few weeks it finally dropped down into
39 the -- you know, the subzero temperatures and seems to
40 be sticking around. People are having issues starting
41 their vehicles. And so it's generally a warmer winter
42 than usual, but right now it finally dropped down to
43 the really cold temps.

44

45 The ice situation out here has been
46 pretty good lately, but it was kind of a late freeze so
47 we'll see how the ice conditions are in the next few
48 months. The trend over the last five years has been
49 either something breaks off in February or March really

50

0063

1 close to shore. Hopefully that's not the case this
2 year, but we'll see as the weather and ice conditions
3 change. And a lot of that really affects the
4 temperature up north and all of our hunting. So it --
5 it's something that we'll monitor, but hopefully for
6 the whalers they have a good season.

7

8 We did have some sightings of a few
9 flocks of ducks close to town over the last week or two
10 and that's generally a little earlier than expected,
11 but there are some that stick around throughout the
12 winter season I'm guessing just because of the
13 closeness of the lead edge, maybe there -- it's a
14 sighting of some of the ones that stick around for a
15 while. But that's something we normally don't see
16 until April and it's February. So it is something that
17 stuck out to me.

18

19 Food wise I think the availability is
20 close to town on the caribou aspect. So that and the
21 winter access trails are active so those are something
22 to keep an eye on too.

23

24 But yeah, other than that there's no
25 real concerns that I have for our area. It's the --
26 it's another year, it's been fairly quite here at
27 Kivgiq. And, you know, there wasn't a whole lot of
28 hunting going on during that time other than caribou
29 hunting, a lot of festivities going on. So hopefully
30 that lasts until next month, right before whaling.

31

32 And I think that's all I got.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for your
37 report. Any comments on -- anybody have any comments
38 on Brower Frantz's report before we move on to -- okay.
39 We have a response there and can you state your name
40 for -- just for the record.

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, Chairman
43 and Council. Through the Chair to member Frantz.
44 Brower, this is Carmen Daggett, how you doing today.

45

46 I was just curious if you had gotten
47 out and done any moose hunting this last fall in the
48 Colville and if you -- if you thought the freeze up on
49 the Colville was about normal for timing or if you have
50

0064

1 any thoughts on that or if anyone else does for that
2 matter. I know Martha lives right next to the Colville
3 too so anyone that has comments on the freeze timing of
4 the Colville this last year, I would be interested to
5 know that and also how people are doing moose hunting
6 stuff. I know that antlerless moose hunts closure may
7 have restricted a little bit of opportunity for people,
8 but hopefully the new proposal coming in will help deal
9 with that. But otherwise I'd like to know how -- those
10 two things, how you did on the moose hunting and then
11 also the river freezing.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Brower Frantz, you
16 got anything to say on that.

17

18 MS. ITTA: I'm sorry, was that a
19 question to me or Brower?

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: To the Chair to member
22 Itta. Martha, do you -- do you have an idea of when
23 the Colville River froze? It was kind of both for you
24 and Brower honestly so do you have any knowledge to
25 share there?

26

27 MS. ITTA: Yes, it usually is like in
28 October, toward the end of October. It was later this
29 year. It froze I believe it was -- started freezing
30 the end of October, beginning of November and it froze
31 for a few days, people were able to set their nets and
32 then the next day it was all underwater. I almost lost
33 my four-wheeler because I broke down and I went down
34 the next day just in time. And right after I pulled it
35 out there -- you know, it was full of water where it
36 was, we couldn't cross the river. So it was like in,
37 you know, supposed to be end of October and it didn't
38 open until November fully. Along with our (in Native)
39 fishing supposed to be as soon as it freezes up. It
40 was still -- in January it was still like two feet
41 thick, still not thick enough. So and it just finally
42 opened up just this past weekend. So, you know, it's a
43 lot later, we lost of fishing time within the last
44 couple of months.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that,
47 Martha, very detailed information. Thank you so much
48 for that.

49

50

0065

1 Brower, do you have any comments on
2 moose hunting?

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry, I -- I'm going to
5 have to ask you to restate the -- all the -- I guess
6 the questions you had. I got cut off and I had to dial
7 back in. I only caught the last part of that.

8
9 MS. DAGGETT: Sure thing, Brower. So I
10 was just wondering despite the antlerless hunt closure
11 that happened this last year, were you able to get out
12 moose hunting this last fall, I know that you're
13 probably one of the most prominent moose hunters on
14 this AC or RAC. Pardon me. Do you have any comments
15 on that, anything about the moose?

16
17 MR. FRANTZ: Not for the last fall, I
18 ended up taking a position that I was not able to get
19 out. I moved over to search and rescue and I was
20 pretty swamped for the falltime so I -- the first time
21 in about 15 years I was unable to go moose hunting. So
22 that I -- I did not participate last fall in the moose
23 hunt. So I got out, but I was only able to go up to
24 (indiscernible - distortion) for a couple trips in late
25 July and early August. So I did not get out in
26 September.

27
28 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you very much for
29 that information, Brower, that's understandable. Sorry
30 you didn't get out to get your moose, I know you like
31 doing that.

32
33 All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 That's all.

36
37 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any
38 other Council comments or reports that we missed and I
39 know Esther spoke earlier and I spoke earlier.

40
41 MS. ITTA: Mr.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

44
45 MS. ITTA:Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, state your
48 name and where you're from.

49
50

0066

1 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, this is Martha.
2 I forgot to mention about the moose hunting that she
3 was asking about. Yes, people, residents did catch
4 some moose. I believe there was three that were caught
5 this last season. It's less than what we usually get,
6 I know we usually get at least six, five or six of
7 them, but there was only a few caught this year.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. And I
12 think we do have some action items on 26A or 26B, 26C.
13 I know there are reports on that, I don't know if there
14 will be action items of not, but they are on our
15 agenda.

16
17 So if there's other comments on --
18 especially with the moose and dealing with Barter
19 Island also is on the agenda for 26C.

20
21 Is there any concerns from our Council
22 before we move down the agenda to the tribal or --
23 public or tribal concerns in the community of Barter
24 Island or within anybody else's.

25
26 Fenton Rexford, did you have concerns.

27
28 MR. REXFORD: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You can come up to
31 the mic if you want.....

32
33 MR. REXFORD: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:for the record
36 and state your name. We have Fenton Rexford, one of
37 our elders from Barter Island.

38
39 MR. REXFORD: Thank you. Thank you
40 very much, Steve. And welcome to the North Slope
41 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. It's been a few
42 years since -- I think one of the first ones that came
43 here before. Really appreciate you coming back. Not
44 sure what year that was -- what year that was.

45
46 REPORTER: Would you state your name,
47 please.

48
49 MR. REXFORD: Oh, I'm sorry. The name
50

0067

1 is Fenton Rexford. In 1992 or thereabout when this
2 sort of RAC or Regional Advisory Council started I was
3 one of the original members, dealing with customary
4 trade and all the good things that started out and I'm
5 still -- and I'm happy it's still running.

6
7 I do have some concerns. I didn't look
8 at the agenda, but I just briefly heard that there's a
9 moose issue on your agenda for this unit, 26C, am I
10 correct? If there is I'll come back to that, but the
11 issue in opening up moose is my concern with the
12 access. We'd like to be like any other hunters that
13 now can start hunting with ATVs, the four-wheelers.
14 And I look in the -- your booklet of your hunting
15 regulations for all the State of Alaska under Page 18
16 where it talks about the various modes of
17 transportation. And in this page it has only one
18 mention about ATV may be used to provide hunters to
19 select wolves. That's in the 11 unit. My concern is
20 within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge which
21 requires permits on some occasions, but we do have
22 Native in-holdings or allotments. We have several
23 families that are within the range of bagging a moose
24 or two along the drainages. I'm not specifically
25 talking which ones, but when I look at 26A it talks
26 about the whole Colville drainage. I know that this
27 navigable river, but we also now are navigating over
28 land. And we would like to have access and language
29 within Page 18 to allow ATV use. If the Federal
30 Subsistence Board and Council work together with the
31 Arctic National Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
32 Service to open up ATV use or the Honda use like in
33 similar areas of Alaska, for instance in page -- in 9B,
34 9C, 9E, but that's for wolves. That's good for the
35 wolf hunters, but we have a new form of transportation
36 to gain access to use Hondas now for our local
37 residents. And that's been in the works for years and
38 we are happy with our Congressional and our Secretary
39 of Interior workers or the Fish and Wildlife workers,
40 whoever was involved to open up Argo use. Getting the
41 history use of Argo, the eight-wheelers, the ones that
42 go through water or drive through water and ATVs and
43 provided that proof.

44
45 So I urge the Subsistence Regional
46 Advisory Council to work with your Fish and Wildlife
47 Staff, whoever it may be regarding Page 18 and allow
48 ATV use not only for moose which is -- there is no --
49 it's closed for this area right now, there's no
50

0068

1 allowance of hunting moose. And that's -- they're
2 here, they're in our country we know of. Maybe might
3 have been biological reason, but if they're around here
4 coming from someplace and when they count, maybe it was
5 a low count, but they -- they kept coming back, you
6 know, it's the way of life here for the moose. They
7 not only at one drainage like HulaHula, but they sure
8 go back and forth to Canning River drainage, from there
9 over the pass there and back to Sandowitchit River for
10 instance. So in the time of the flights over in spring
11 for moose is scarce, but we know that they're there.

12

13 But anyway I'm getting off the subject,
14 but I just wanted to make sure I notice to provide like
15 in Page 18 when you look at that page which allows use
16 of various modes of transportation, snowmachine,
17 motorized land vehicle, airboats, snowmachine, et
18 cetera. So that would be a very good move for this
19 Subsistence Advisory Council and the -- and all of the
20 BLM and the Federal agency to work with Fish and
21 Wildlife to provide access using ATV.

22

23 And I thank you very much for the
24 opportunity to quickly say about that and I may have
25 more to say after the issue of moose hunting comes up
26 again.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: (In Native) taikuu,
31 Fenton, Mr. Rexford. And I think it's something that
32 is on the agenda which is going to be next on our item
33 once we get these action items done. And, you know, we
34 are Advisory Council for the North Slope and, you know,
35 proposals we put to the Federal Subsistence Advise --
36 Advisory Council, sometimes it gets shot down. As, you
37 know, as much as we support our communities on the
38 North Slope and, you know, we want to regulate our own
39 hunting. You know, as Federally tribal, we have a
40 government to government relationship and it's
41 something that we're looking more into and with Biden
42 because we can go straight to.....

43

44 MR. REXFORD: Let me just briefly just
45 a quick story about muskox hunting management. We had
46 a good report of muskox in the early to late '60s and
47 early '70s. And the population really picked up to
48 around 400 around our area. So in order to have the
49 village here start hunting 15 at the start, we were
50

0069

1 bagging 15 a year, then 10, then five. But we started
2 out with a management plan with all the Federal
3 agencies and we provided a harvest plan. And that
4 harvest plan with the State agency, with BLM, with
5 Parks -- National Parks, Fish and Wildlife, we're all
6 in that management plan committee. But for muskox that
7 would be a good example to work with all of the
8 agencies, North Slope Borough, State and all of that
9 for harvesting muskox at that time. But that could
10 work for other animals to have a harvest plan in that
11 manner for -- at least the manner where it worked for
12 muskox and I don't see why it couldn't work for other
13 mammals as wells.

14

15 So thank you very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Fenton.
18 Any Council members want to comment on Fenton's
19 concerns before we.....

20

21 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, go ahead,
24 Brower Frantz.

25

26 MR. FRANTZ: Can you hear me? Okay.
27 Yeah. Thank you. Thank you. So Brower from Barrow.
28 Thank you for that, Fenton. Last year I brought up a
29 similar issue for the area and I agree with that. And
30 I think that ethically it's -- you guys are not being
31 treated fairly I think because the -- for fly in people
32 to come in and be able to access your lands more than
33 you guys do during the summer months, I don't think
34 that's right. So it's a -- the -- I think that's a
35 good way to put it, I'm glad you said something about
36 ANWR this year and I think that's -- that should be
37 looked into. And I would support that because you guys
38 are having difficulty trying to get to your own
39 allotments like you're saying and if you can't get to
40 the resources because of limitations set by the Federal
41 government, but yet somebody can come in with a plane
42 and use up the lands all they want, I don't think
43 that's right.

44

45 So thank you for bringing that up and I
46 would be interested to see other avenues of way we can
47 help you guys out within the community to make things
48 right.

49

50

0070

1 Thanks for that.

2

3

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Brower
4 Frantz. Did you want to respond to that, Fenton, or
5 you could sit there until you're done.

6

7

MR. REXFORD: Yeah, thank you Brower.
8 Yeah, it's been a battle over the many years and we
9 finally got a foothold about a year or so ago with the
10 Secretary of Interior and the various agencies involved
11 in the access. And we were -- maybe last year or so we
12 finally were able to get a, what you call it, executive
13 order of some type to have ATV access. But I don't
14 have the particulars, I'm just a retired standby guy to
15 give support to continue subsistence use in -- within
16 ANWR.

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But thank you very much again and I
know that this sometimes can be a thankless job, but
keep up at it. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Taikuu, Fenton.
And I think we have some people to respond to your
concerns. And can you state your name and what
department you're from.

MR. HAWKALUK: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
Chair. For the record my name is Nathan Hawkaluk, I'm
the Acting Refuge Manager for the Arctic National
Wildlife Refuge. Through the Chair, members of the
Council. I heard a few threads that I could respond to
real quick. Some of these things might come up later
on in the meeting when we get into some action items,
but first of all there was a comment about moose
hunting and moose permits available to the community
here. Arctic Refuge is a -- has delegated authority to
issue 10 permits annually which we do and we provide
those 10 permits to the community and those are
distributed by the community, Native Village of
Kaktovik, to 10 community members and there's a quota
of three moose every year. We've done that for I think
-- that 10 permits issued, three moose quota for three
to four years now. So that's been established for
sometime. I just wanted to get that on the record to --
that there is a moose season in 26C in Arctic Refuge
here, Federal season I should say.

I heard something about access to in-
holdings, allotments on the North Slope. There is an

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1 allowance for that, that can happen right now anytime
2 of the season. It just -- it will be accompanied with
3 a special use permit issued by the Refuge. That permit
4 we condition to protect resources with reasonable
5 regulations.

6
7 I also heard a little bit about fly in
8 hunting. I just want to be clear that flying in is
9 available to anybody. There's no exclusive rights to
10 nonresidents to fly in. Just to be clear we don't --
11 we don't administer fly in hunting to specific groups
12 of people, anybody can do that.

13
14 So the last thing I'll touch on that
15 was brought up by Mr. Rexford was the ORV use for
16 subsistence purposes. I don't have a lot of updated
17 information for you at the time -- at this time. We
18 are working through a process right now as an agency to
19 administer that use. It's been a long process, we've
20 gone through a historic access study where we're
21 working through a determination, we've got a lot of
22 Solicitor input on it and we're hoping to reach out to
23 the community and this governing body as well sometime
24 soon to move that process forward. Again it's hard to
25 predict where that might go with the public process,
26 but I do see some form of access being afforded in the
27 future. But that's as much as I can say right now
28 given where we are in the process.

29
30 So that's all my comments for now.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Thank
35 you for your response. Any other response to Mr.
36 Rexford's concerns from the different agencies.

37
38 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, this is Brower.
39 I just wanted to do a follow-up for Mr. Hawkaluk.

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, go ahead.

42
43 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah. So you do say you
44 have -- well, it's specific -- you mentioned specific
45 to the allotments. Now would that allowance be
46 available for them to go to the location of where they
47 would be hunting moose as well?

48
49 MR. HAWKALUK: I mean, honestly that's
50

0072

1 a yes and no question. Let me start off by saying and
2 admitting I'm no legal expert, but I'm starting to
3 understand ANILCA a little bit. So we have two
4 different provisions. There's title VIII provisions
5 which provide for access to subsistence resources so
6 that's got its own specific implementing regulation
7 set. And then we're talking also about title XI access
8 to in-holdings which has subsequently also got its own
9 set of.....

10

11 MS. KIPPI: You're breaking up.

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: One more time, Wanda.

14

15 MS. KIPPI: They're breaking up, I
16 can't hear -- I couldn't hear finishing talk of Brower
17 and the guy -- that Refuge guy.

18

19 MR. HAWKALUK: Okay. I'll try to do
20 better. But anyways -- sorry. So we have two
21 different titles that really guide our management, but
22 we also understand that sometimes those things are one
23 and the same, access to an in-holding is also a
24 subsistence access. So a lot of times those can be one
25 and the same and conflated and we understand that and
26 we could navigate that on a case by case really.

27

28 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Thanks for that.
29 And now I guess that triggers the question, is that
30 every trip that they have to go on they need a specific
31 permit for or is this something that they would have
32 and would be able to do like a blanket allowance during
33 the certain specific time of year that you know that
34 they're going to be hunting?

35

36 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, through the Chair,
37 Councilman Frantz. I don't know the details here, I'd
38 have to get back to you on that one. I imagine we'd
39 have some flexibility in how we issued a permit with,
40 you know, again conditioned to protect resources, but
41 also ensure we allow for subsistence access. So I
42 don't have specific answers for you at this time
43 though. Sorry.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Thanks. And I
46 think the last question I've got is, you know, you --
47 so you allow everybody to have the same flexibility to
48 have airplane fly ins, but specifically -- I mean, it --
49 I would be geared towards the guided hunters that fly
50

0073

1 in to do that commercially, you know. Nobody really up
2 north, that's a really specific, you know, only certain
3 -- you know, if you've got five to \$7,000 to fly in
4 every trip, you know, that's not really a fair
5 statement to say that, you know, in fairness it
6 wouldn't be, you know, right, you know. The local
7 community here per trip, you know, if that was expected
8 of them to fly in and then equate that to, you know,
9 nonresidents or anybody that is flying in to have
10 access to it just doesn't seem right to me.

11

12 Anyway that -- it just -- that -- I
13 think that should be looked into a little more just
14 from the ethics standpoint.

15

16 That's all I've got though.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. HAWKALUK: May I respond to that
21 real quick too, please. On the guided end of the
22 spectrum the Fish and Wildlife Service has pretty tight
23 controls on what guides can and cannot do on Arctic
24 Refuge. They've competitive guide use areas that they
25 have to as it -- as it says, you know, they need to
26 compete for and adhere to very tight ways of operation
27 including where they can go, when they can go, how many
28 people they can take. That again is guided hunters.
29 There's also of course commercial air taxis and air
30 operations that can drop people off as well. So kind
31 of two different things, one's guided, the other one is
32 just air taxi. But when it comes to the guided hunters
33 on Arctic Refuge they have a pretty tight window to
34 operate in.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. FRANTZ: Thanks. I guess I should
39 have narrowed it down to commercial, not guided.

40

41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any
42 other comments or questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You know, I -- you
47 know, where we -- I live way on the other side of
48 Barter Island, along the far end so I don't know this
49 territory very good as I know my own hunting grounds.

50

0074

1 And here I'm on the far east and, you know, the
2 corporation land, I -- you know, I'm trying to look on
3 the map and there's 100,000 acres that belongs to the
4 corporation. I've never seen that. Is that in the
5 Refuge also, the 100,000 acres, are they restricted on
6 hunting on their own surface, they have surface right,
7 are they restricted hunting on their own land, the
8 corporation? That's what something I've -- you know,
9 I've -- like I said I'm from the other end of Alaska so
10 I'm not familiar with Barter Island. So I couldn't see
11 where the 100,000 acres was and I see the National
12 Refuge is right there in front of them. But are they
13 restricted from hunting there on their own lands and
14 allotments to a certain extent?

15

16 MR. HAWKALUK: Mr. Chair, not by us
17 they are not. We have no jurisdiction over those
18 92,000 acres of KIC land. I believe that's what we're
19 talking about here is the lands.....

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I can't hear you.

22

23 MR. HAWKALUK: Excuse me.

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We can't hear you.

26

27 MR. HAWKALUK: We have no restrictions
28 on those 92,000 acres of KIC land, we have no
29 jurisdiction over that, we have no hunting regulations
30 that I'm aware of. There might be some for migratory
31 birds, but I'd have to dig into that a little bit more.

32

33 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Does
34 BLM have anything to say on that?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. I
39 couldn't quite -- is there any concerns from the
40 Advisory or from the community or -- we are under
41 public and tribal comments, whether it's a nonagenda
42 item.

43

44 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, can you state
47 your name?

48

49 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, Martha.

50

0075

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, go ahead.

2

3

4 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I would like to
5 say something. When we're talking about -- the things
6 you're talking about like the government, the -- I
7 called them -- we called them easements, surface
8 rights, user agreements, easements. I would advise
9 that when you're working on these documents,
10 ordinances, regulations, that they clearly put the
11 wording that you like in there that would protect their
12 allotment, their subsistence hunting. Just -- I just
13 wanted to state that they need to make sure the wording
14 is in there because it's really important the agencies,
15 they go by these documents and if the wording isn't
16 right, it -- they use those. So I just wanted to make
17 that statement when working on these easements and
18 these ordinances and regulations to make sure that the
19 Native land owners and subsistence users put the
20 wording the way they want it.

20

21

Thank you.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for the
comment, concern. Was that Martha?

25

26

MS. ITTA: Yes.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any other comments
or concerns in the public or tribal comments.

30

31

MR. REXFORD: Yes.

32

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Fenton Rexford for
the record.

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MR. REXFORD: Yes, I -- thank you.
Fenton Rexford, yes. The hunting regulations in 26C
for fly in is mostly State regulations, under State
regulations. I wonder how that was worked out with
Fish and Wildlife Service within ANWR lands to allow
sheep hunting with airplanes and landing in -- on the
HulaHula drainage. I know that most of that is State
hunting regulation area and it's within Federal lands.
And I'd like to hear how that process works, Mr. Chair.

46

47

Thank you very much.

48

49

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Fenton.
Can somebody respond to that question or concern, how

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1 they get jurisdiction over Federal lands, the State and
2 then put regulations on?

3

4 MR. HAWKALUK: Through the Chair.
5 Again for the record Nathan Hawkaluk, Acting Refuge
6 Manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is State
7 administered harvest, you know, for general hunting.
8 So yeah, that is the State purview. When the Federal
9 nexus would come in is whether there would be an
10 opportunity afforded to Federally-qualified users for
11 expanded seasons which there are, there's additional
12 permits available to Federally-qualified users in the
13 neighboring communities or if there was a conservation
14 concern. For instance on the south side we the Arctic
15 Village Sheep Management Area which is closed to
16 nonlocal use, but throughout the majority of the Brooks
17 Range including the HulaHula as was mentioned in the
18 comment that is like much of the State on Federal
19 conservation units such as National Wildlife Refuges
20 administered through State regulation.

21

22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for your
23 response. You know -- you know, in our area, you know,
24 we put a -- we support a lot of proposals within our
25 region. Even though we're an advise -- North Slope
26 Advisory Council it still goes through the Federal
27 Subsistence Advisory Council which can get shot down.
28 And they sometimes -- they might have public hearings,
29 you know, and a lot of times these public hearings are
30 nonresidents of the area, even out of State, that talk
31 about subsistence way of life where they never been,
32 but hunted. And yet the Federal Subsistence Advisory
33 Board supports them. And even though we put proposals
34 trying to protect our way of life, you know, how we
35 lived for thousands of years these proposals get shot
36 down to us. You know, we know we're an Advisory
37 Council, but, you know, I think we need more
38 jurisdiction and more power, you know, and not just be
39 an Advisory Council.

40

41 Thank you, Fenton, for bringing that
42 out.

43

44 I think we have somebody to comment.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
47 Holman, Wildlife Biologist for OSM. I just -- I don't
48 know anything about the fly in portion, but there are
49 separate Federal regulations for subsistence hunters
50

0077

1 for 26C sheep and there are State. So it all just --
2 there are actual separate subsistence hunter
3 regulations for 26C.

4
5 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any
6 other public comments or tribal comments on nonagenda
7 items before we move to the next.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for your
12 participation. We went through old business, item 12,
13 we went through the Western Arctic Caribou Herd update,
14 we did the follow-up on the North American Caribou
15 Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference for May of 2023
16 and we are under new business which is wildlife closure
17 reviews.

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, members of the
20 Council, my name is Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist
21 with the Office of Subsistence Management. Before we
22 get into the closure reviews I'd like to provide an
23 overview of the process for these reviews. In August
24 of 2020 the Board approved a revised closure policy
25 which stipulated all closures will be reviewed every
26 four years. The policy also specified that closures
27 similar to regulatory proposals will be presented to
28 the Councils for a recommendation and then to the Board
29 for a final decision.

30
31 Previously closure reviews were only
32 presented to Councils who then decided whether or not
33 to maintain the closure. However regulatory action on
34 closure reviews on limited to retaining, rescinding or
35 modifying the closure. Actions such as changing
36 seasons, harvest limits, delegating authority to in-
37 season managers are outside of that closure review
38 process. To this end closure review analysis are being
39 presented to the Councils now during the call for
40 wildlife proposals to inform your decision on whether
41 or not to submit a proposal addressing the closure that
42 would normally be outside the scope of the closure
43 review process.

44
45 This is not an action item, it is just
46 informal. However if Councils decide to submit a
47 proposal to address the closure a motion would be
48 needed. The Councils will make a formal recommendation
49 on the closure during your fall, 2023 meeting and the
50

0078

1 Federal Subsistence Board will take final action on
2 these closure reviews in April of 2024.

3

4 Before I proceed with the summary of
5 the analysis are there any questions on this review
6 process?

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is there any
9 comments from the Council or concerns.

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: Go ahead, Wanda.

12

13 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. This is Wanda
14 for the record. I think you will be thinking about the
15 Unit 26B and 26C on the moose. Do you have -- do you
16 have a map to show what area and who we -- I know it's
17 going to -- it's going to be dealt with by the Kaktovik
18 area, but where else in the map shows who else is kind
19 of involved, which communities?

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: Member Wanda, this is
22 Kendra Holman. Through the Chair. So I'll go over
23 this here in a little bit more detail, but specifically
24 right now moose is closed in Unit 26B remainder and 26C
25 to everyone except residents of Kaktovik holding a
26 Federal registration permit.

27

28 MS. KIPPI: I would still like to see a
29 map of the area, is there a map?

30

31 MS. HOLMAN: The map is on Page 16 of
32 your meeting book.

33

34 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any other comments.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You know, I think
41 in the future, you know, when we have and we know it's
42 a nonaction item and it states wildlife closure reviews
43 and they're not our other -- on our work pamphlet that
44 a Federal wildlife closure review, WCR 24-31, is a
45 issue of wildlife closure review for closure to moose
46 hunting in Unit 26B and remainder of 26C except by the
47 residents of Kaktovik. So, you know, in the future,
48 you know, when we have an agenda when it just reads the
49 -- you know, we need to make sure we put everything in
50

0079

1 there, you know, whether it's an action item or not.

2

3

4 We thank you. Is that what you're
5 talking about right now, are we moving along the
6 agenda?

6

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, to address
9 your question. While this specific item is not the
10 reviewing the wildlife closures is the prior
11 information and knowledge needed to help this RAC make
12 wildlife proposals which is an action item. So that
13 was why I'm up here doing this, to make sure that the
14 Council has all the information needed to potentially
15 make a proposal if they would desire.

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any
questions on that from the Council.

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I
know it's not near my turf, but is that going to affect
the 26B for Nuiqsut or is that another?

MS. HOLMAN: Member Esther, this is a
different area than where Nuiqsut is.

MS. HUGO: I know that, but I got a map
here. There's a 26B and 26C and here in your thing it
says 26B remainder and Unit 26C.

MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair, this is
Kendra Holman again. If you are looking at that map
there's the line that is the divider for 26B and 26C
and kind of in that bottom corner adjacent to it, still
within the boundaries of ANWR, there's a small portion
that is labeled as 26B remainder. That portion is what
we are going to be discussing along with all of 26C on
Page 16 of your meeting book.

MS. HUGO: And what little portion are
we talking about, toward the Gate of the -- I mean,
toward our turf or is it way over here?

MS. HOLMAN: No, it's right along the
boundary of 26C. There's a small -- it almost blends
in as if it's part of 26C, but there is actually a
boundary between there. It is labeled 26B remainder.

MS. HUGO: Okay. I don't really see
that.

0080

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I just want to
2 clarify something. So we're on item 12 which is
3 wildlife closure review. And then under that we have
4 regional review. Are you talking about both, is that
5 you're trying to get something certain out there which
6 Esther had a comment on, was that Unit 26B and Unit
7 26C?

8
9 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So this
10 closure review has -- under the 12A for the closure
11 reviews we have two closure reviews that will affect
12 this Council that we'll go over. So WCR 24-31 covers
13 Unit 26B remainder on your map and all of Unit 26C. So
14 we'll cover that. I'll go through an analysis of this
15 closure review, providing you the proposed OSM
16 conclusion and then as a Council if -- should you not
17 agree with what our proposed conclusion is, if the
18 Council would like to put in a proposal, instead of the
19 minimal options with the closure you can do that. The
20 primary purpose at this point is to give you this
21 information on the closure review because next fall
22 when it's covered as an action item your only options
23 will be to rescind, continue it or to make very, very
24 minimal modifications. So if there's any desire for
25 the Council to change the moose harvest in anyway, to
26 say open it back up or close it down all the way,
27 anything like that has to be done through the proposal
28 process. And with the way it has been done
29 historically the Councils were not given that
30 information ahead of time to be able to make those
31 proposals. So right now our attempt is to provide the
32 closure review information to the Council so that if
33 you wish to do something other than the limited options
34 of a closure review you have that opportunity.

35
36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for
37 explaining that. Is there any Council comments.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We understand that
42 this closure is except -- but not to Barter Island
43 residents that is coming up which is 26B and 26A.

44
45 MS. HOLMAN: If you'd like, Mr. Chair,
46 I can start going over the analysis and then if there's
47 any questions to clarify some of this a little bit more
48 maybe that'll help.

49
50

0081

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you.
2 And if there's any questions or comments from the
3 Council you're more than welcome.

4
5 MS. HOLMAN: All right. For the
6 record, Mr. Chair and for the Council, my name is
7 Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the
8 Office of Subsistence Management. This proposal can be
9 found on Page 15 of your meeting books and a map of the
10 location can be found on Page 16 of your meeting books.
11 This closure is in Unit 26C remainder or excuse me, 26B
12 remainder and 26C where Federal public lands are closed
13 to the taking of moose except by Kaktovik residents
14 holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under
15 these regulations.

16
17 The regulatory history of this started
18 in 1996 when the Federal Subsistence Board separated
19 Unit 26 into Unit 26A except the Colville River
20 drainage downstream from the mouth of the Anaktuvuk
21 River Unit 26C remainder which also included units 26B
22 and 26C. This included a modification to close moose
23 hunting in Unit 26B remainder and the State closed
24 moose hunting in 26C except that portion of the
25 Colville River drainage downstream from the mouth of
26 the Anaktuvuk Pass [sic].

27
28 In 2004 WP 04-26A requested
29 modification of the existing customary and traditional
30 use determination to give priority to residents of
31 Kaktovik to harvest moose in Unit 26B and 26C, but the
32 proposal was withdrawn so a more thorough ANILCA 804
33 analysis could be completed at a later date. The Board
34 adopted proposal WP 04-86B allowing a harvest of three
35 moose in Unit 26B and 26C with the restrictions of no
36 more than two bulls and no cows could be harvested in
37 Unit 26C by residents of Kaktovik with a Federal
38 registration permit. In 2012 the Board of Game
39 established a moose season in a portion of Unit 26C,
40 however no State hunt has occurred because of the
41 Federal lands closure.

42
43 From 2013 to 2015 several special
44 actions and wildlife proposals were considered by the
45 Board. They included increasing the harvest limit and
46 then decreasing the harvest limit and then adjusting
47 the closure which was rejected. In 2016 the Board
48 adopted proposal WP 16-65 with modification to create a
49 may be announced moose season in Unit 26B remainder and
50

1 26C. It removed regulatory language referencing
2 harvest quotas and delegated authority to the Arctic
3 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to determine annual
4 quotas, set opening and closing dates and the number of
5 permits to be issued via a delegation of authority
6 letter allowing for better management of this moose
7 population.

8
9 In 2020 the Board approved a revised
10 closure policy which stipulated all closures will be
11 reviewed every four years. The same year the Board
12 voted to maintain the status quo on the closure review
13 WCR 20-31 continuing to limit the moose in Unit 26B
14 remainder and 26C moose hunt to Federally-qualified
15 subsistence users in Kaktovik, leaving the delegation
16 of authority to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
17 Manager.

18
19 Specific State management objectives
20 for Unit 26B and 26C moose are as follows. Maintain a
21 population of at least 300 moose through 26B. 26C
22 maintain a moose population of at least 150 moose.
23 Both of those are a three year mean proportion of at
24 least 15 percent short yearlings within the population.

25
26
27 So Unit 26C contains at least two
28 different moose populations. The first population
29 occurs in the coastal plains and the foothills of the
30 North Slope of Unit 26C, the North Slope population.
31 And the other portion occurs in the Firth, Mancha and
32 Upper Kongakut, excuse me if I said that wrong, okay,
33 River drainages. The focus of this analysis was on the
34 North Slope population in Unit 26C.

35
36 A comprehensive moose survey has not
37 been conducted for Unit 26B and 26C, however every two
38 years from 2003 to 2018 a smaller scale minimum count
39 has been done in areas where the moose concentrate to
40 assess population trends. These trend counts account
41 for a large percentage of the moose in these units as
42 habitat is limited to this region.

43
44 The moose population in the Unit 26B
45 remainder has ranged from 100 in 2014 to 339 in 2009.
46 Figure 1 on Page 23 of your meeting book shows the
47 overall population trend. Moose in Unit 26C has ranged
48 from 23 in 2014 to 155 in 2018. Figure 2 which is also
49 on Page 23 of your meeting book shows the overall
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1 population trend.

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Harvest quota is currently determined using a 3 percent harvest rate with a quota and permit numbers currently announced by the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager via delegation of authority. Since 2004 only 10 bulls have been reported harvested which can be seen on page -- in Table 2 on Page 25 of your meeting book.

In 2017 an increase in moose abundance Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager authorized two Federal registration permits to residents of Kaktovik for the harvest of two bull moose in the Kongakut River drainage. Only one of these moose -- only one moose was harvested.

Retaining the status quo would continue to limit the moose hunt to Kaktovik residents. Conservation concerns remain for this low population which is on the fringe of its range. The harvest quota determined annually by the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager helps ensure sustainable harvests while providing opportunities for the Federally-qualified subsistence users. Most of the North Slope moose population occurs in that Kongakut River drainage and remains low elsewhere on the Arctic coastal plains. Continuing to limit the moose harvest to the Kaktovik residents is recommended given the small North Slope population and to provide a subsistence priority.

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to retain the status quo.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any comments from the Council or what is the wish of the Council.

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, is this a proposal that needs to take action?

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: No.

MS. HUGO: No, it's just.....

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: It's not an action

0084

1 item.

2

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MS. HUGO: Oh, it's not an action item?

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: No.

6

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MS. HUGO: No?

8

9

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Not an action item.

10 If the Council wants to put a proposal to this they're
11 more than welcome to. I'm asking what's the wish of
12 the Council before it becomes an action item or we have
13 something further down the line on the agenda.

14

15

16

But is there any other Council
comments.

17

18

(No comments)

19

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21

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Did you want to
reply to that?

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MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, member
Esther, I was just -- the -- so at this point in time
this is just an information. If the Council does not
agree with our preliminary conclusion to retain the
status quo, so continue it as it is, and the Council
would like to put in a proposal to change this closure,
this is the time to be able to put in this proposal.
So we are giving you the information on the closure
review so that if you wish to put in a proposal for
something other than removing the closure, retaining
the closure, you have that opportunity.

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any other Council
-- because, you know, we heard from Fenton earlier
about the restrictions they have on the Refuge and
using ATVs or anything thing, an Argo. It's very hard
for some elders to get around especially when they do a
lot of subsistence. Anyway I think we heard somebody
mention about, you know, the -- you know, walking or on
foot, but, you know, the usage of Argos and four-
wheelers on higher ground especially for the
subsistence way of life, you know, this is not -- this
is not a closure to the people of Kaktovik. It stays
open and this proposal won't or this action item later
won't hurt the people of Kaktovik. They still have
access to the moose that is provided at a certain
number. And if there's a proposal on change, you know,

0085

1 you ought to have them have access with vehicles or
2 boats to get to their food source especially in the
3 Wildlife Refuge where they're not -- they have -- you
4 know, they have to go on foot to go after these certain
5 animals if they're in their area and not utilize four-
6 wheelers or Argos within the National Refuge?

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, as I
9 understood Nathan earlier, the Manager of ANWR, so
10 they're going through the process to be able to
11 potentially allow the use of these vehicles, but they
12 have to finish out that process. That is not what we
13 would do going through the proposal process.

14

15 MR. HAWKALUK: Mr. Chair, members of
16 the Council, just real quick. Yeah, the access issue
17 that we spoke to earlier would be separate from this
18 closure process. But the -- I just wanted to also take
19 note that this is a winter season hunt, I believe it
20 starts in October and runs through the end of February.
21 I might be a little off on those dates, it might run
22 into March a little bit, but in general that's a winter
23 hunt that would most often be accessible through --
24 with snowmachine.

25

26 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Is
27 there any comments from the Council.

28

29 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, this is Esther.
30 So they were -- there was this proposal and then he
31 just stated that there's another proposal that's
32 separate on the access like for ATVs and four-wheelers?

33

34 MS. HOLMAN: So, member.....

35

36 MS. HUGO: I'm getting mixed up here.

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: No, no, you're all right,
39 member Esther. So through the Chair this is Kendra
40 Holman. They are -- have to work through a different
41 process for that ATV access because this hunt is
42 typically run in the winter, there is snowmachine
43 access for this hunt. So the ATV process is completely
44 different than this.

45

46 MS. HUGO: Sorry, Mr. Chair. It just
47 bring back something I thought of. As we all know
48 where I am -- where I live there's Gates of the Arctic.
49 And my mother' got 160 acre down in the trees. And we
50

0086

1 got to fill out some certain paperwork just to go to
2 her allotment with the ranger there at home. That's
3 pretty weird because I don't think I want to be taking,
4 I mean, but that's rules and regulations they're
5 putting us through. That's my mom's allotment and I'll
6 do anything just to go there and check it out because
7 my mother didn't have that chance. And they're just
8 throwing us all this stuff, they even told my uncle
9 what size to pick his -- to build his cabin on his
10 Native allotment.

11

12 But I just wanted to mention that.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Esther.
17 Any other Council concerns or comments or what's the
18 wish of the Council before we move on to the next item?

19

20 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Wanda.

23

24 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, it's Brower.

25

26 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, go ahead. Is
27 that Brower Frantz that I heard or Wanda Kippi?

28

29 MR. FRANTZ: Yep. Yes. So the way I
30 read it Kaktovik is included in it, the access issue
31 isn't part of it. It would -- it looks okay to me and
32 it's not an action item so it's a -- it would be good
33 to get Eddie's input on this, but it looks to me that,
34 you know, the Kaktovik residents are the exception. So
35 I wouldn't see any issue with this moving forward as it
36 is.

37

38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any --
39 Wanda, did you have a comment.

40

41 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
42 is Wanda for the record. I have a comment about the --
43 how it's written itself. When she talks about Unit 26B
44 pertaining to 26B and 26B remainder, are they placed in
45 the right place in the writing where -- in each
46 paragraph. Because I keep seeing 26B remainder in one
47 place and they talk on and then they including units
48 26B. So are the 26B and the -- and the remainder 26B,
49 are they placed in the right paragraph when they wrote

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0087

1 this letter?

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MS. HOLMAN: Member Wanda, so some of -- some of the information in this closure review did include a little bit for populations of Unit 26B. So 26B itself is mentioned a few times, however the closure review itself and the closure itself is only for that small portion on Unit 26B remainder that's labeled as 26B remainder on that map and all of Unit 26C. So there is a few references to 26B throughout this analysis just because of the information that is available to us at times. So yes, 26B itself is completely -- is listed several times in this, however the closure itself is only 26B remainder and 26C.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. So where will you put remainder and where is it just plain 26B that's how it is pertaining to either B -- 26B or 26B remainder as is on the letter?

MS. HOLMAN: Yes, that should all be correct. It's gone through several rounds of different reviews so it should all be correct.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. I just wanted to make sure of that because we're talking about two different things, 26B and 26B remainder.

Thank you.

MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, any other Council comments or concerns.

MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is Eddie.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Hello.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You're getting cut off. Is that Andrew?

REPORTER: That's Eddie, Eddie Rexford.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Oh, because you're online. Okay. Yes, Edward Rexford for the record is

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1 online?

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MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yep. Yeah, just wanted you guys to know I finally called in from Fairbanks.

MS. GILL: Thank you for joining us.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you for calling in. We are under -- we are under item 12, wildlife closure review and then we're going to go to the regional review. I know we've been talking about that area for a while I think.

Thank you for calling in.

Any other comments before we move down the agenda or what's the wish of the Council, I know this does not effect closure to the residents of Barter Island. So we want to ensure that they have rights to the moose hunting within their area. This is not a closure to Barter Island at all. So we want them to understand that.

Is there anything else before we got down to regional review, I think we talked about that and then we have a bunch of item -- action items. Is there.....

MS. HUGO: Let's take a break.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a suggestion to go on a five minute break I think before we continue on. What's the wish of the Council.

MR. EDDIE REXFORD: I'll call for the break.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We're taking a five minute break.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I'll call the meeting back to order from the break. And we were under new business and we just got done with regional review. We're going to go to crossover review. We do

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1 have a few action items coming up. The first one is
2 WCR 24-21, Unit 25A, Arctic Village Sheep Management
3 Area closed to sheep hunting by non-Federally-qualified
4 users. Is that an update or -- okay.

5

6 Thank you. Can you state your name
7 or.....

8

9 Can everybody hear us okay online, we
10 are back from break.

11

12 MR. FRANTZ: Sound good from Barrow.

13

14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: All right. Thank
15 you. The floor is yours.

16

17 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Through the
18 Chair. For the record my name is Brent Vickers and I
19 am the Anthropology Division Supervisor with the Office
20 of Subsistence Management. Now first off I want to say
21 that this is another wildlife closure review just like
22 we did with Kendra Holman on that last item that we
23 went over. Again this is not an action item, this is
24 mostly informative or sorry, that we changed the
25 process so it's a little bit confusing, but we wanted
26 to give the Council more or less a heads up on the
27 closure reviews before we acted on them next fall and
28 also provide the Council with opportunity to either
29 make a proposal now or in the fall on the particular
30 area that we're talking about in case you would like to
31 change regulations in anyway if you decided to rescind
32 that closure. So this is really a heads up, giving you
33 guys information, letting you think about it unless you
34 actually wanted to do some -- make -- talk about an
35 actual proposal now, but we are changing this because
36 in years past Councils complained that they didn't
37 really time to think about the closure and what they
38 would want to do with regulations if they rescinded the
39 closure so we decided to shift and give you the guys
40 the closure reviews in the winter and then act on them
41 later in the fall.

42

43 So hopefully that makes sense to you
44 and we can -- we're going to move forward with this
45 process. And again sorry for the confusing change, but
46 this is another closure -- wildlife closure review.
47 And I will be presenting analysis for the closure
48 review, WCR 24-21 which begins on Page 30 of your
49 meeting books. The map of the area we are discussing
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1 is on Page 32.

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4 Wildlife closure review WCR 24-21 is a
5 review of the closure of the dall sheep hunting to non-
6 Federally-qualified users in the Arctic Village Sheep
7 Management area in Unit 25A which is open only to rural
8 residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon,
9 Kaktovik, Chalkyitsik.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Chalkyitsik.

11

12 MR. VICKERS: Sorry, I -- I've never
13 had to say that community out loud and I try to get
14 help with it, but then I froze under pressure.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. VICKERS: What was it again,
19 Esther?

20

21 MS. HUGO: Chalkyitsik.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Chalkyitsik. Thank you,
24 I knew I would screw up. Thank you for your patience
25 with that. All of these communities have a customary
26 and traditional use determination for dall sheep in
27 Unit 25A.

28

29 First the regulatory history. One of
30 the first actions of the Federal Subsistence Board in
31 1991 was to establish the Arctic Village Sheep
32 Management Area which I will refer to as the AVSMA.

33

34 MS. KIPPI: We can't hear you.

35

36 MR. VICKERS: I'll speak closer to the
37 mic. Oh, there we go. That sounds better. This is --
38 I don't think is the best of mics so I'll speak right
39 up against it for you.

40

41 In 1991 AVSMA was established by the
42 Board and then closed to non-Federally-qualified
43 subsistence users the AVSMA did not initially include
44 Cane and Red Sheep Creek drainages. In 1995 the AVSMA
45 expanded to enclose -- include Cane and Red Sheep
46 drainages and this region was closed to the Federally
47 -- non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. In 2007
48 AVSMA closure was partially rescinded. Cane and Red
49 Sheep Creek drainages were open to harvest by
50

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1 non_Federally-qualified subsistence user from the
2 months of August 10th through September 20. Then in
3 2012 the closure of Cane and Red Sheep Creek drainages
4 to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users was
5 reestablished. Lastly in 2020 there was a closure
6 review and the closure was retained by the Federal
7 Subsistence Board.

8

9 The justification for the original
10 closure when the Board established the AVSMA in 1991
11 was in response to concerns raised by residents of
12 Arctic Village who felt that non-Federally-qualified
13 hunters interfered with sheep hunting by local
14 residents and to address concerns about sheep
15 population health. Since 1991 this closure has been --
16 has only been lifted for a period between 2007 and
17 2012.

18

19 Dall sheep are a critically important
20 subsistence resource for the residents of Arctic
21 Village. They can be a survival food and are
22 spiritually important as they are aspect of -- again I
23 just got these so I'm some, Neets'aii Qwich'en cultural
24 identity. If someone wants to help my pronunciation
25 with any of those, I give you the opportunity now.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, sorry for
30 those if I butchered it.

31

32 Local and agency perspectives on the
33 density of dall sheep populations in the AVSMA and
34 especially Cane and Red Sheep Creeks offer differ.
35 Sheep populations across the eastern Brooks Range of
36 Alaska have appeared relatively stable at low densities
37 in the late 1990s. However geographic barriers such as
38 large valleys and rivers naturally limit sheep
39 movements and distribution resulting in discrete
40 subpopulations. Therefore repeated fine scale surveys
41 are necessary to understand sheep population status and
42 trends in specific areas such as the AVSMA. The Arctic
43 National Wildlife Refuge conducts periodic aerial
44 surveys of the AVSMA and surrounding areas. Due to
45 differences in survey areas comparisons across years
46 are difficult. Sheep densities within the AVSMA have
47 generally been low compared to other areas in the
48 Brooks Range.

49

50

1 Harvest. Since 2012 there have been no
2 harvest by non-Federally-qualified users. Harvest data
3 from Federally-qualified -- from Federally-qualified
4 subsistence users is sparse, but there is some. You
5 can see the harvest statistics from Federal permits on
6 Table 1 on Page 40 of your meeting books. For those
7 who don't have the meeting book in front of them
8 basically over the five year period between the
9 villages of Arctic Village and Fort Yukon there have
10 been 43 permits issues, 20 hunts and 12 reported
11 harvest.

12
13 In 2019 residents of Arctic Village
14 collectively agreed not to harvest dall sheep because
15 they observed very few sheep. At the 2019 Eastern
16 Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting Arctic
17 Village residents shared extensive insights about sheep
18 including the sacredness of Red Sheep Creek, the
19 importance of sharing of sheep meat in other villages
20 and local management strategies which include direction
21 from hunting chief as to when it is and is not
22 appropriate to hunt. Those who testified said that the
23 hunting chief advised them not to hunt sheep in 2019
24 due his observations of extremely low numbers of sheep
25 in the Cane and Red Sheep Creek drainages.

26
27 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
28 maintain the status quo, to keep the AVSMA, especially
29 Cane and Red Sheep Creeks closed to non-Federally-
30 qualified users. The current closure is still
31 necessary to keep subsistence uses of the AVSMA for
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users especially
33 residents of Arctic Village and Venetie. Additionally
34 the current status of the AVSMA sheep population is
35 unclear due to the lack of recent surveys suggesting
36 possible conservation concerns. Rationale for the
37 closure has consistently included user conflict,
38 concerns about health of the AVSMA sheep population and
39 the importance of the area for a continuation of
40 subsistence uses.

41
42 Thank you, Council members, I am here
43 to answer questions.

44
45 Also we have Liz Williams,
46 Anthropologist for Office of Subsistence Management on
47 the phone I believe and she will also be able to help
48 with any questions.

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1 Thank you.

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3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for that.
4 Any questions or comments from the Council.

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6 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, this is Esther
7 for the record.

8

9 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead, Esther.

10

11 MS. HUGO: This is cut -- this is kind
12 of way toward Arctic Village and down further south and
13 it's informational. I just wanted to say something
14 because a lot of our sheep hunting's been closed except
15 for the residents due to fatalities and weather. But a
16 lot oftimes when our caribou don'tmigrate we look to --
17 for the sheep. And I just wanted to point that out
18 and wanted to know where exactly this was?

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. VICKERS: Yes, thank you for that
23 question, Council member Hugo. The map for this
24 closure is on Page 32 of the books and I'm not sure if
25 you have the book in front of you and it's -- the map
26 provided is a little -- is dark and kind of hard to
27 see. But if you have the map there's a shaded area
28 which is in the middle of that dark area. There's a
29 dark shaded area in the middle of the dark area.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. VICKERS: And that is the AVSMA.
34 That is the closure that we're speaking of. And really
35 the majority of that closure is north of Arctic Village
36 although the Federally-qualified subsistence users, the
37 communities of residents who have access to actually
38 have a Federal hunt in this area of Arctic -- include
39 Arctic Village and a couple communities which I believe
40 south of Arctic Village. The community from Anaktuvuk
41 Pass is not Federally-qualified for this hunt I
42 believe.

43

44 Thank you.

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46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
47 response. Any other questions or comments from the
48 Council.

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1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Just a reminder this is not an action item, it's informational and it deals with the Arctic Village area further south of -- is that on the borderline of the National Refuge, is that -- any other questions or concerns dealing with WCR 24-21, Unit 26A, Arctic Village Sheep Management.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for your report. Appreciate it. We'll go to item B, call for Federal wildlife proposal.

MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, just before we get started here I just want to check to see if we have a quorum and a couple of Council members on the phone just before we go ahead and jump into this action item I want to make sure we can take action on it.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead.

Okay. I'll just do a little roll call here just to make sure that we're all onboard. Do I have Wanda Kippi?

MS. KIPPI: Yes.

MS. GILL: Thank you. Do I have Martha Itta?

MS. ITTA: Yes.

MS. GILL: Martha, was that you?

MS. ITTA: Yes.

MS. GILL: Okay. Great. Thanks. Brower Frantz, are you online?

MR. FRANTZ: Yes, I'm online.

MS. GILL: Great. Eddie Rexford, were you able to stay on?

MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yes, I'm online.

MS. GILL: Okay. Great. Thank you.

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1 And then I have Steve and Esther here in person. So
2 perfect. I just wanted to make sure we had quorum.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. The
7 floor is yours.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Hello again, Mr. Chair,
10 members of the Council. For the record my name is
11 Kendra Holman and I'm the wildlife Biologist with the
12 Office of Subsistence Management.

13

14 This is a call for wildlife proposals
15 and the Council's opportunity to submit proposals to
16 change Federal subsistence wildlife harvest
17 regulations. An informational flyer on how to submit
18 proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations can
19 be found on Page 56 of your meeting books. Proposals
20 need to include the regulation you wish to change, the
21 specific regulation that you are proposing and an
22 explanation as to why the regulation change should be
23 made and any additional information that may help in
24 evaluating the proposal change.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted).

28

29 MS. GILL: Could I have everyone online
30 mute themselves, please, we're getting just a little
31 bit of feedback.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. HOLMAN: While the window to submit
36 proposals has not officially opened yet the Council can
37 vote to submit proposals now and your Council
38 Coordinator will officially submit your proposal when
39 the window opens. Also the opportunity for Councils to
40 submit proposals is available during this entire
41 meeting.

42

43 MS. KIPPI: I can't hear anything.

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: Is that better? Wanda is
46 saying that she can't hear anything.

47

48 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, Wanda, we'll try it
49 again.

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1 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Wanda, can you hear me
4 now?

5

6 MS. KIPPI: Yes, you're loud and clear
7 finally.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. While the window to
10 submit proposals has not officially opened yet, the
11 Council can vote to submit a proposal now and your
12 Council Coordinator will officially submit your
13 proposal when the window opens. Also the opportunity
14 for Councils to submit proposals is available during
15 this entire meeting as long as you have a quorum. If a
16 Council member thinks of a proposal later or in
17 response to another agenda item they're welcome to
18 suggest submitting a proposal then. Of course anyone
19 can submit a proposal as an individual before the
20 submission window closes.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
23 Council. I'm happy to address any questions about the
24 proposal process and will standby while the Council
25 discusses any possible proposals.

26

27 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Is
28 there any comments or questions or proposals.....

29

30 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, this
31 is Eddie.

32

33 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:that they want
34 to submit that I think it's -- you know, in the past I
35 know we supported other Regional Advisory Councils
36 supporting proposals that they brought up within their
37 region especially in Unit 23 and further south dealing
38 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd which has an
39 affect within the North Slope and also with the moose
40 and the Porcupine Herd or the Teshekpuk Lake.

41

42 But any comments or concerns from the
43 Council?

44

45 REPORTER: Eddie has a comment.

46

47 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, go ahead.

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0097

1 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Hi, good afternoon.
2 This is Eddie Rexford of Kaktovik. I'm curious how
3 Kaktovik got inputted as a traditional use for Unit
4 25A, that's kind of way south of our continental divide
5 and I haven't heard of anybody hunting near that area,
6 it's like north of Arctic Village. Is that the Red
7 Creek area?

8
9 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you.
10 He's coming to the mic, Eddie.

11
12 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yeah, it's on that
13 map, the shaded area north of Arctic Village, the Red
14 Sheep Creek area. So maybe for future reference or
15 action item maybe deleting Kaktovik from traditional
16 use in 25A.

17
18 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Mr. Rexford, this
19 is Brent Vickers from the Office of Subsistence
20 Management. First off that determination was before my
21 time. I don't know -- I wasn't here for that, I don't
22 know the legacy of that. Many of these traditional --
23 customary and traditional determinations are -- were
24 inherited by a program from early -- sorry. Many of
25 these determinations, but not all of them, many of them
26 were inherited by the program from earlier State --
27 determinations made by the State back previous to 1991.
28 I don't know the history of this. They could have
29 certainly also been a Board determination made after
30 that period. We can find out the history of that, it
31 actually might take a little time, but we can get back
32 to you.

33
34 That said it is totally plausible and
35 to the -- submit a proposal to basically take -- to
36 reexamine the customary and traditional use
37 determinations and to see if Kaktovik still would
38 qualify for a customary and traditional use
39 determination. That is something you could do and
40 that's exactly why we are doing these wildlife closure
41 reviews now during winter so you guys have time to
42 think about some of these things and submit a proposal
43 that is outside of the scope of a lot of that closure
44 review and changing the customary and traditional use
45 determination which ultimately changes who is a
46 Federally-qualified subsistence user for this resource,
47 sheep in this case, is exactly the type of proposal
48 that is out of scope of a wildlife closure review, but
49 pertains to the regulations for sheep hunting in that
50

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1 area.

2

3 I hope I've answered in someway
4 questions you have and let me know if you have any
5 others.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yeah, it was way
10 before my time also. I haven't heard of anybody from
11 Kaktovik harvesting sheep in that area, could be way
12 before my time, but I'm past 60. Well, anyways, yeah,
13 the reason why I thought I'd bring that out is yeah, I
14 know of nobody from our community that harvests sheep
15 in another traditional area because we hunt sheep on
16 26C on the Brooks Range and never have we harvested any
17 in 25A. Just so -- yeah, maybe something can be done
18 about that in the future. I don't know, we'll see.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Eddie.
23 Do I hear any other response to that?

24

25 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, go ahead.

26

27 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Rexford, this is
28 Kendra Holman for the record. I just wanted to -- oh,
29 sorry, I hit the power off button. I just wanted to
30 clarify, is that something that you want to add as a
31 proposal for this fall?

32

33 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Oh, yeah, if it
34 don't hurt. But I don't know, what's the deadline to
35 get in the process for trying to do that?

36

37 MS. HOLMAN: So through the Chair, this
38 is Kendra Holman again.

39

40 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Or it could be done
41 at another -- at another time where it is more
42 convenient.

43

44 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Rexford, this is
45 actually the perfect time to do it, that's what we're
46 doing right now in this call for proposals. So
47 anything throughout the region that people want to
48 change within Federal regulation which is exactly what
49 removing Kaktovik would be, can be a proposal right now

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1 so this is the exact time to do that. I was just
2 looking for a clarification to add that to our list so
3 your Council Coordinator can go through that process
4 and help the Council get that submitted. Just looking
5 for a yes, that is what you wanted.

6

7 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yes.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: You know, the --
12 thank you, Eddie for that. And, you know, the Regional
13 Advisory Council supports proposals from the
14 communities and, you know, which deals with subsistence
15 or benefits our communities, residents or tribal
16 members. And, you know, putting these proposals and
17 this is the right time and our Coordinator I think will
18 work on that and put that proposal through the Council
19 and then it'll get voted on and put through. But then
20 I think it still has to go through the Federal
21 Subsistence Advisory Board for approval. We are an
22 Advisory Council and it's something that we talked
23 about earlier that we -- many proposals that we submit
24 usually get shot down which benefits the communities
25 and that's real hard on us. And it's something that we
26 want -- you know, the population is up, that -- you
27 know, the priorities is to the communities and the
28 residents that live within that area, that it's their
29 food source, you know. And eliminate the nonresidents
30 and sport hunters from coming into certain areas and
31 having access to those animals. I think the priority
32 has always been the people that live here that utilizes
33 for their food source, for their subsistence way of
34 life. And it's something that the Advisory Council
35 fully supports proposals like that.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
40 just wanted to just make sure that you guys knew that
41 the Council needs to just vote to say that they want to
42 make that proposal on the C&T determination for
43 Kaktovik. So just need a vote -- a motion and a vote
44 on that.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is that supposed to
49 be in a motion and voted on by the Council to submit a
50

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1 proposal, is that what you're stating?

2

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MS. GILL: Yes.

4

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CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So Eddie makes a motion to allow sheep hunting within -- is that the National Refuge and earlier -- I guess it was closed down to Barter Island several years back, is that what he stated or, you know, the -- we need to understand the proposal and then if there's a second and voted on and passed by them they will put that proposal together. So we need to understand which proposal they're -- he's making. I'm not from this area, you know, but we support all proposals, but in order for our Coordinator to put these together we have to understand what's the proposal and put it all in writing and submit it.

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MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make a note that yeah, we could delete Kaktovik from traditional use determination for 25A because we never did go that far south of the Brooks Range and hunt sheep in Itkillik country.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.

MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, this is Brower.

CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, Brower Frantz.

MR. FRANTZ: So I just wanted I guess some clarification or maybe a -- so I guess what I understand is he wanted to remove the C&T from 25A. Just to be clear for removing that or, you know, trying to remove that type of -- like the customary and traditional use that would effectively be like if they had a proposal that affected a drainage that goes your way similar to what we had last -- a few weeks ago, we had C&T for some fishing areas in Coldfoot area on I think three rivers it was, three streams. We had a say in how they were affecting travelers to and from Nuiqsut or Barrow or whoever was driving through, we

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1 had customary and traditional use there. That means we
2 get a say for those areas. So by removing C&T for
3 Kaktovik in their area if they had a proposal that
4 affected streams or rivers for your area I want you to
5 be aware that that would be effectively removing your
6 say for that -- for that stream that may be connected
7 to your area. Even though it's outside of the
8 boundary, you know, you might have resources that are
9 connected to it. So just to be clear removing
10 something like that I would look more into or get
11 insight from maybe Gordon would be the best. He's not
12 here now, but I would definitely try to pull some
13 insight from -- you know, I know a little bit about it,
14 but I'm not the best at it, but from what I see that
15 would be removing your -- you know, some of your rights
16 to discuss things like that that they might be
17 connected to you guys even though it -- you know, it
18 doesn't seem like it is, but it might be.

19

20 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: And who was
21 speaking?

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Eddie, did you have
24 a comment on that?

25

26 REPORTER: He wants to know who's
27 speaking.

28

29 MR. FRANTZ: Oh, it's Brower Frantz in
30 Barrow.

31

32 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: All right. Thank
33 you, Brower. Yeah, that's all I wanted to say anyways,
34 yeah. Nobody from our tribe harvest sheep in 25A to
35 the best of my knowledge and it would be good to find
36 out where that date -- where that information came
37 from, how many years ago.

38

39 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. So are
40 you.....

41

42 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:submitting a
45 proposal for action and then our Coordinator can draft
46 it up and submit if it's passed through the Subsistence
47 Advisory Council. And this is the perfect time to
48 submit any proposals within the Council or if -- I
49 think if a tribal council authority proposes a -- puts
50

0102

1 a proposal together dealing with it or is it pretty
2 much the Council itself that puts the proposal together
3 unless they're asked by the tribal council, yes, I
4 think, and then the Advisory Council would submit a --
5 but this is the time if Eddie wants to put this
6 proposal in, you know, put it in a motion and it can be
7 seconded.

8

9 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Yeah, I can -- I
10 can do that, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I couldn't.....

13

14 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: I can change hats
15 and put my tribal government president hat on and make
16 that proposal that we delete Kaktovik from traditional
17 determination for Unit 25A. I so move.

18

19 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We've got a
20 motion on the floor.

21

22 MS. HUGO: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded by Esther.
25 We are under discussion. And somebody had discussion
26 on that, you had your hand up?

27

28 MR. VICKERS: I do. I want -- sorry.
29 This is -- for the record this is Brent Vickers from
30 the Office of Subsistence Management and I want to
31 clarify with Mr. Rexford and anyone else that this --
32 what I hear from you is that you would like what's
33 called a negative customary and traditional use
34 determination for the community -- the residents of
35 Kaktovik and that's the only community and -- so a
36 negative -- it's a customary and traditional use
37 determination for residents of Kaktovik and for Unit 25
38 sheep; is that correct, we're only talking about Unit
39 25 sheep as well? That was the wildlife closure review
40 that I presented, a closure for Unit 25A, the AVSMA and
41 Arctic Village Management -- Sheep Management Area
42 which is strictly a closure to sheep for non-Federally-
43 qualified hunters.

44

45 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Eddie, did you
46 understand that comment or.....

47

48 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Oh, I didn't get
49 that. I'm sorry.

50

0103

1 MR. VICKERS: Sorry, I'll try to speak
2 more clearly here. Again this is Brent Vickers for
3 Office of Subsistence Management. I wanted to clarify
4 that the proposal that you are putting forward is for
5 what we would call a negative customary and traditional
6 use determination which would basically be eliminating
7 them from the customary and traditional use
8 determination for Unit 25 sheep; is that correct?

9
10 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: I believe so. Yes,
11 to the best of my knowledge we haven't hunted in that
12 area since time immemorial.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Great. Thank you
17 very much. Just wanted to get that clarification down
18 for us.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We do have a motion
23 on the floor and seconded and we are under discussion.
24 Is there anymore discussion on our proposal to submit?

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MS. HUGO: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
31 called for by Esther. All in favor of submitting this
32 proposal say aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed say
37 nay.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
42 motion carries. Our Coordinator will put this proposal
43 together and submit it and we'll go from there.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 Is there anything else or any proposal
48 that want to be submitted dealing with the North Slope
49 Subsistence Advisory Council?

50

0104

1 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, Esther for the
2 record.

3
4 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead, Esther.

5
6 MS. HUGO: I've got a copy of this
7 proposal that was sent to me by one of the Council
8 members, it's the same proposal that we put up back in
9 2013 I believe. The first proposal it was denied and
10 the second was denied in 2014. So we're -- I guess we
11 want to use the same proposal, but we need to look at
12 the wording on the application -- on the form.

13
14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Esther.
15 Is that the.....

16
17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted).

19
20 MS. GILL: Everyone on the
21 teleconference line, if you can please mute yourself
22 that would be great. We're getting a little bit of
23 feedback here.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I think can you
28 comment on that. We know that Jessica's new to the
29 Coordinator so what proposals were made what, four
30 years ago. But using the wording is what she suggested
31 from the past proposal.

32
33 MS. HUGO: Yes, Mr. Chair, I've got the
34 proposal here, but I don't have the WCR dash number.
35 It's been a while.

36
37 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So our Coordinator
38 can utilize that and the wording if she needs help with
39 the wording on submitting a proposal and when it's
40 brought back to the Council we can look that over and
41 submit it.

42
43 Anything else from the Council, any
44 proposal throughout the North Slope Subsistence
45 Advisory Council that have concerns in submitting a
46 proposal that benefits their communities or concerns?

47
48 This is Steve Oomittuk for the record
49 from Point Hope and Unit 23 with the Western Arctic
50

0105

1 Caribou Herd. In the decline of the Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd we'd like to submit a proposal for closure
3 of Western Arctic Caribou Herd within the Unit 23 to
4 nonresidents and sport hunters during the months of
5 August, September and October. And this is a proposal.
6 You know, me being the Chairman it -- I don't know, you
7 know, I can submit a proposal or can I ask somebody to
8 do that. You know, I know I can't second a proposal,
9 but as an Advisory Council member I can submit a
10 proposal?

11

12 MS. GILL: So, Mr. Chair, I'm not 100
13 percent sure on that, but I just wanted to clarify that
14 before this went any further on that specific one.
15 With the Western Arctic Caribou Herd under the Federal
16 program, we don't specifically do residents,
17 nonresidents and sport hunters, we have Federally-
18 qualified subsistence users and non and only for
19 Federal public lands. So if what you're looking for is
20 a closure to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users
21 on Federal land?

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

24

25 MS. GILL: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We understood the
28 importance of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
29 throughout our communities and the population decline
30 at 164,000 so we want to ensure that we find out what's
31 happening with the herd before we have nonresidents and
32 sport hunters coming in and continue hunting within our
33 lands. It's been at a steady decline for the last 10
34 years and it's not slowing down. So it's something
35 that we wanted to submit closure to non-Federally-
36 recognized or whatever you mentioned, I -- on Federal
37 lands during the months of August, September and
38 October within the Unit 23.

39

40 And that is a proposal, is there a
41 second.

42

43 MS. HUGO: I second it, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded by Esther.
46 Is there any discussion.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0106

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any discussion from
2 the Council.

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: Call for the question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes. Is that
7 Brower Frantz?

8
9 REPORTER: Brower, could you repeat
10 that, please.

11
12 MR. FRANTZ: I called for question.

13
14 MS. GILL: Oh, Mr. Chair, sorry, I need
15 a little bit more clarity on what exactly the proposal
16 is before we vote. I'm so sorry.

17
18 So, Mr. Chair, can -- he was requesting
19 that closure to non-Federally-qualified subsistence
20 users on Federal public lands from August through
21 October in Unit 23 to the hunting of caribou?

22
23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, for the
24 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. I don't know if that's
25 going to have to go through the Northwest Arctic
26 Borough Subsistence Advisory Council because they are
27 within that Unit 23. And it was a proposal that was
28 put by the Northwest Arctic Borough a year ago and the
29 Federal Subsistence Advisory -- we didn't have the
30 actual population at the time that -- which was delayed
31 and the proposal got shot down by the Federal
32 Subsistence Advisory Council. Now we know the
33 population of the Western Arctic Caribou is at a steady
34 decline and is at 164,000 when the highest was at
35 500,000. So we've been at a steady decline by more
36 than half within the last 20 years. And we want --
37 with a majority of the hunters within the State out of
38 our region and out of State are between August,
39 September and October. And then we want to put a stop
40 to that until we figure out what's happening with this
41 herd.

42
43 And that is right, the wording on
44 there. We are still under discussion.

45
46 I think question was called for and
47 they wanted clarification on the wording. So the
48 question has been called for and so we'll vote on it.
49 All in favor of this proposal say aye.

50

0107

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed say
4 nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
9 motion carries. Thank you. And it will be submitted
10 and the wording will be put in there.

11

12 Thank you for your support.

13

14 Anything else throughout the Regional
15 Advisory Council, any other proposals that want to be
16 submitted?

17

18 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, so with your
19 permission I just wanted to bring up for the Council to
20 address a conversation that was had in the fall meeting
21 about interest in designated hunter for the muskox hunt
22 that's in Unit 26A just again for the Council's
23 discussion if that was something that they had wanted
24 to pursue further.

25

26 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And what unit are
27 you talking about, is it somewhere in particular?

28

29 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, so Unit 26A
30 muskox hunt regulation is -- let me -- it's western
31 26A.

32

33 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: 26A.

34

35 MS. GILL: Sorry, I was going to try
36 and bring up the exact regulation here that the
37 discussion had been on. So that regulation had been
38 for that portion west of the eastern shore of Admiralty
39 Bay where the Alaktak River enters, following the
40 Alaktak River to 155 West longitude, south to the Unit
41 26A border. Right now it's one muskox by Federal
42 drawing permit. That was a new regulation this year
43 and this November there had been some discussion of
44 interest in a designated hunter for that, but that is
45 not something that we can do. I just wanted to bring
46 it back up for your attention for discussion if that
47 was something you'd like to follow through with
48 further.

49

50

0108

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any questions or
2 concerns from the Council on this muskox? Unit 26, is
3 that what you said?

4
5 MS. GILL: Unit 26A. That western
6 portion of Unit 26A is where the discussion had been.
7 I believe Brower Frantz may have been involved in that
8 discussion if I'm remembering correctly.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: No, it's Gordon.

11
12 MS. GILL:or Gordon Brower, one
13 of the two. So but again that is up to the Council if
14 that was something that had wished to pursue further.

15
16 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any comments or
17 concerns from the Council.

18
19 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, this is Brower.

20
21 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead, Brower
22 Frantz.

23
24 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Yeah, Brower Frantz in Barrow. Just wanted to -- I
26 guess that one I did want to discuss. I guess I
27 haven't been too heavily involved in the -- I guess
28 talking with our Wildlife here, but that -- the issue I
29 was having with that was that the hunt itself and the
30 way it's set up for the drawing that has occurred, I
31 believe this was a Federal one though. So the way it
32 was set up was multiple villages were involved, but
33 villages that did obtain permits were quite away
34 outside of the area so it didn't really make sense.
35 And actually I haven't heard of anyone that has made
36 use of that tag yet. So it really doesn't make sense
37 for us as the ones that are actually seeing the muskox
38 in our areas and have the opportunity and, you know,
39 the equipment to get to these locations just being out
40 of a -- you know, a larger hub, but the areas that have
41 been getting them really I guess weren't where the
42 muskox sightings had been. So there -- it -- I'm not
43 sure how I would put it, there hasn't been a whole lot
44 between then and now that I've actually thought about
45 it, but if I were to change anything on that what I
46 would do is -- I should have talked to Wildlife here,
47 but what was the other -- make it a -- maybe Carmen
48 might be able to know the -- what's the difference
49 between the drawing and like a tier two or any other --
50

0109

1 what are the other options of selection and location
2 wise would make this more manageable for us to actually
3 make use of these. It -- I haven't heard of anybody
4 that's made use of them yet.

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: So through the Chair, this
7 is Kendra Holman. So there are two separate hunts up
8 there. The State did issue their permits and that's
9 where the tier two and those were tier two permits.
10 I'm getting confirmation from Carmen here next to me.
11 So the State permits that were issued were. The
12 Federal permits that were issued were a drawing permit
13 done by the BLM office up there. So I'm not sure,
14 you've got two separate permits there, we're
15 specifically talking about the Federal one now.
16 There's the Federal drawing permit, it can be gone as
17 Federal registration that can be done through a
18 specific location. I'm not sure if that would help you
19 out.

20

21 MR. FRANTZ: I think that that's the
22 one that was done that they had -- you know, there was
23 multiple locations that got them, but none of them --
24 you know, some of them were anybody was just able to
25 apply for them and some of them I don't think are --
26 well, yeah, nobody's made use of them.

27

28 But so what I guess clarification maybe
29 on what the State is doing as far as their selection.

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen.

32

33 MR. FRANTZ: It sounds like I know what
34 the Federal side was doing.

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
37 member Frantz, this is Carmen Daggett for the State of
38 Alaska. Brower, thanks for your questions. So there's
39 -- Kendra is correct there were six permits that were
40 issued under the Federal hunt that opened last fall.
41 And the Federal hunt was the only hunt that was open
42 last fall. And they actually have through mid March to
43 still hunt on those permits yet so the people who did
44 obtain those permits actually still have some time.
45 There were people that were awarded those permits from
46 a variety of different locations across the North Slope
47 that I'm aware of. So as far as who applied for those
48 permits, that obviously directly impacts who gets those
49 permits. And I've been working closely with people who
50

0110

1 I know in the past have been interested in muskox
2 permits to notify them with those application periods
3 are open and to communicate that information with BLM
4 so that they can provide that -- the information to
5 those individual and those individuals have the contact
6 information they need to do that.

7

8 So once the tier two hunts draw period
9 opened which was this last November and December the
10 Federal permits will go down to three and the State
11 will have three permits to issue. So this coming year
12 in August when the muskox season hunt opens there are
13 three individuals who could go out and harvest that
14 will be able to do so under the tier two hunt and then
15 there are three individuals that will be able to do so
16 under the Federal hunt.

17

18 Again as far as who is applying for
19 those, it directly impacts who gets issued those and so
20 we do our best to try to notify individuals directly
21 that have expressed interest and go from there.

22

23 So I hope that answers your question,
24 Brower. I think it's a bit early to try to manipulate
25 it. Maybe that's a bit forward for me to say, but I
26 think that there's definitely -- there's a lot that
27 needs to happen yet and some room for people to still
28 be able to harvest. So it's a bit early in the game to
29 understand how the harvest is going to happen with
30 muskox in 26A.

31

32 Does that answer your question?

33

34 MR. FRANTZ: Sounds good. Yeah, I
35 think that's all I need for now. And that -- I'll -- I
36 think I'll work maybe with NSB Wildlife and get their
37 opinion on how we might move forward and maybe Gordon.

38

39

40 So that's it for now.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. MIKOW: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, can you state
47 your name and.....

48

49 MS. MIKOW: Hi. For the record this is

50

0111

1 Beth Mikow with the BLM. And I just wanted to clear up
2 a little bit with some of Brower's questions from the
3 Federal hunt. So the reason that people from all sorts
4 of -- you know, there's basically seven different
5 communities applied, it's written into regulation that
6 they're Federally-qualified users for the hunt. So,
7 you know, just like the hunt boundary, you know, we
8 basically let communities know that this hunt was
9 available. So just to let you know that even though
10 they seem -- some of the communities seem a little bit
11 more far flung they are in regulation, you know,
12 Federally-qualified for the hunt.

13

14 Just wanted to clear that up.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Does that answer
19 your question, Brower Frantz?

20

21 MR. FRANTZ: I think I got what I
22 needed from this, yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Did we have
25 Wanda Kippi that wanted -- had a concern or something
26 that she wanted to say?

27

28 MS. KIPPI: Yeah. Not at this time, I
29 can't think of anything right now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. You
32 know, it's always been a big concern with muskox and
33 how it's regulated. You know, we know the numbers have
34 gone really high within the Unit 23 and yet we're still
35 not allowed -- you know, it's like a lotto, you know,
36 and it's not just the residents of -- the people of
37 Unit 23. And whether they're nonresidents or even out
38 of State, you know, they're put in a lotto to get on
39 what you -- who gets to hunt that muskox.

40

41 You know, they were resubmitted into
42 our area when they were -- didn't exist anymore, what
43 you call that, and reintroduced in the '70s. And now
44 they're overpopulated and taking over the food source
45 or stomping on the food source of the Western Arctic
46 Caribou Herd. And then pushing them away from our
47 area. And I think at the last count I think there's
48 about six, 700, I'm not sure what's the population of
49 the muskox within Unit 23 now. I think Carmen can --

50

0112

1 and then I know we brought this up once before and who
2 has the right, you know, if it's going to be a -- we
3 are subsistence users and we as tribal member or
4 residents within these areas should have priority if
5 we're going to open up subsistence back through the
6 muskox and then not be put in a lottery where
7 nonresidents and out of State people can submit their
8 name in this.

9 You know, it should be the priority of
10 the people that live there if it's going to be a low
11 number. Seems like we're always getting pulled into
12 these where, you know, we have no jurisdiction over our
13 own food source and it goes to other people because
14 they think that the muskox horns look so good, you
15 know, which we don't eat. You know, we used to eat
16 muskox years ago, but we were told we cannot hunt them.
17 And, you know, we have muskox that come into town with
18 porcupine quills, but we're not allowed to kill them
19 unless we're going to get in trouble, we scare them out
20 of town. But it's something, you know, you see a
21 muskox with porcupine quills all over his face you want
22 to put him out of his misery because he's changing --
23 chasing people within the town, you know. And, you
24 know, muskox is good eating.

25
26 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
27 comments, Steve. This is Carmen with Alaska Department
28 of Fish and Game for the record. So a couple of
29 questions you had in there. First of all the total
30 population the last time we did a whole survey for the
31 whole Cape Thompson population which includes both 23
32 and 26A was 911 muskox. There's about 420 of them that
33 are in 26A and the remainder of them would be in Unit
34 23. So that answers that question for you.

35
36 The tier two hunt that I was talking
37 about is a resident only hunt and it is meant to
38 distinguish between residents based on a variety of
39 different questions that are answered in the
40 questionnaire when you apply for the tier two permit.
41 And so things like the cost of gas and food and cost of
42 living expenses are considered along with the use of
43 those resources in that area. So the State system
44 tries to distinguish among users in that way.

45
46 The Federal permits are done
47 exclusively for non-Federally-qualified subsistence --
48 for Federally-qualified subsistence users. So those
49 would also not be nonresidents. So it would only be
50

0113

1 for residents is how I should say that, of Anaktuvuk
2 Pass, Atqasuk, Utqiagvik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point
3 Lay and Wainwright. So those permits are not for
4 nonresidents.

5

6 And I think those were all of your
7 questions. Did I miss anything?

8

9 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for
10 clarifying that. But, you know, it's a low margin and,
11 you know, when you have nine -- over 900 people in one
12 community and in Unit 23 the population within that
13 area and you said Point Lay and did I hear Wainwright
14 or.....

15

16 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

17

18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And then, you know,
19 population of Wainwright.....

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:is 70 -- 700
24 or so. You know, the amount of muskox that is
25 allocated, you know, is a very low margin especially
26 when you have over 500 within the 23. And how many
27 muskox were introduced in the '70s when they were
28 extinct within our area, was that about 200 or a
29 hundred something or 50 or, you know, the steady -- you
30 know, they're not declining, they're growing in
31 numbers, but it seems like they're taking over a lot of
32 our area and diverting the caribou from their migration
33 routes also, not just the sport hunters or nonresident
34 hunters, but also the muskox with their overpopulation
35 within our area.

36

37 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. I
38 wanted to clarify that the numbers that I indicated for
39 permits were just for 26A, there's also two Unit 23
40 hunts that muskox can be taken in as well. And I did
41 not address those either, but they have separate
42 permits that are issued in addition to the ones that
43 we've added for western 26A. So there are more
44 availability and the -- I believe the TX107 hunt on the
45 State side offers more permits particularly in the
46 region close to Point Hope as well.

47

48 So I just wanted to throw that out
49 there. And you're testing my historical knowledge,

50

0114

1 Steve. I can't remember what the number was that
2 introduced, but I can find that out for you and get
3 that information to you.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
8 comment. And, you know, we've been discussing -- we
9 have on the agenda what -- and it is an action item
10 when our next meeting will be and where it will be at.
11 And while we have a quorum, once we get all these other
12 action items down we -- we're going to -- whether we
13 have it in Barrow or within another community, but it's
14 something that we have concerns with the muskox and the
15 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And thinking about -- I
16 don't know how the Council feels about having a joint
17 meeting with the Northwest Subsistence Advisory Council
18 dealing with a lot of these issues that we're dealing
19 with now, especially with the Western Arctic Caribou
20 Herd and the muskox and the sheep that are coming back
21 within our areas. So it's something that hopefully the
22 Council will look into inviting the Northwest Arctic
23 Borough Subsistence Advisory Council to our next
24 meeting and have it in a place where they can meet
25 that's nearby. You know, I don't think they had it in
26 Point Hope yet and they try to make it through all the
27 North Slope villages, they pretty much made it through
28 most of them. So we'll see what the Council decides.

29

30 Any other comments or concerns or
31 proposals that want to be submitted by the Council,
32 this is the time.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So we will move
37 down through our agenda. We have -- so we went through
38 the call for the Federal wildlife proposal, is that
39 what.....

40

41 MS. HUGO: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK:that's what
44 we're on?

45

46 MS. HUGO: We're on this one.

47

48 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. So we will
49 go to -- I think it's the 2021 Council charter review.

50

0115

1 I think it's Jessica. The floor is yours.

2

3

MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, my name is Jessica Gill, I'm the North Slope Regional Advisory Council Coordinator. So your 2021 Council charter can be found on Page 142 in your Council meeting book so that's like towards the back of the book.

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So all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Under the Act each Council charter can be renewed every two years. So approximately a year before it's renewed each Council can have a discussion to see if there's anything you want to change. Most of the language that's currently in the charter is required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act or FACA and it's implemented in policy so you cannot request a language update to some of the language in the charter. But you can request to make minor modifications to things such as the name of your Council, the number of seats on your Council, the estimated number or frequency of meetings, adding language about desired geographic representation balance and any of these types of requests must be accompanied by a detailed justification of the need to make these modifications.

So specifically speaking to the geographic member -- or sorry, to the membership balance. That's a balance that would allow the Council to achieve a more equal representation of members from across the region, but even if you have this type of language added to your charters in the end it will depend on the number and diversity of the applications that the Board receives from the -- from your region. For example the Kodiak-Aleutians Council has a geographic membership balance to include -- to indicate that their goal is to have four members from the Kodiak Archipelago, three from the Alaska Peninsula and three from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands. Because that region is so spread out the Council wanted to make sure that they have representation from across the rank -- across the region. And same for Western Interior, they have similar language as well.

We have other changes made to charters over the last four years, the language on carryover terms has been added in the last go around which allows Council members to continue to service on the Councils

0116

1 if a new round of appointments has not been made before
2 the winter Council meetings. So that's why we didn't
3 have to have that issue this time.

4
5 So other language that was added was a
6 clause on out of cycle alternate appointments that
7 allows us to fill a seat out of cycle that was vacated
8 due to a member moving out of the region or resigning
9 or passing away.

10
11 These two language additions allows us
12 to have less vacant seats on the Councils during our
13 Council meetings.

14
15 So if the Council is satisfied with all
16 the charter provisions as is -- as written in Page 142
17 of your Council books, then your -- then I can provide
18 it to the InterAgency -- oops, sorry. We can just
19 simply vote to move the charter forward to the Board,
20 we don't haveto --we just haveto vote tomove itforward.

21
22 If you would like to make a request for
23 modification you'd have to provide some justification
24 and then I can provide it to the InterAgency Staff
25 Committee for review that will in turn provide those
26 requests to the Federal Subsistence Board that will
27 review it and decide to move it forward to the
28 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture for their
29 approval.

30
31 So with that I'll open the floor to any
32 amendments to the 2021 [sic] Council charter if you
33 have any.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So what's the wish
38 of the Council.

39
40 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, Esther for the
41 record.

42
43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Go ahead, Esther.

44
45 MS. HUGO: I'd like to go ahead and
46 proceed with the charter as written.

47
48 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Is that a motion to
49 leave the charter as written, is that what I.....
50

0117

1 There's a motion on the floor. Is
2 there a second.

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded. Any
7 discussion.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Can you clarify?

12
13 MS. GILL: Oh, okay. So it sounds like
14 Ms. Hugo wants to keep the Council charter as is, the
15 one that's written in Page 142 of your meeting book,
16 just to move that forward to the Board. Is that my
17 under -- is that accurate?

18
19 MS. HUGO: Yes.

20
21 MS. GILL: Okay. So sounds like that's
22 up for discussion right now.

23
24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any further
25 discussion from the Council.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
32 called for. All in favor say aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
37 sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
42 motion carries. Thank you.

43
44 Okay. We'll go down to item D, review
45 and approve of FY 2022 annual report.

46
47 Jessica.

48
49 MS. GILL: Great. Thank you, Mr.

50

0118

1 Chair. Again this is Jessica Gill, Council Coordinator
2 for Office of Subsistence Management for the record.
3 So I'd like to direct your attention to the Council
4 book on -- at -- in your meeting book on Page 61 which
5 is the draft 2022 annual report.

6
7 The annual report is a chance to bring
8 subsistence issues that are not regulatory in nature up
9 to the Federal Subsistence Board. It covers several
10 different topics discussed at the last meeting in
11 October. I believe everyone has had a chance to review
12 the report, but I can give you a little bit of time to
13 review the report again if we -- and then if you decide
14 you need to make any edits or changes to the report
15 we'll just have a motion for that to bring it up for
16 discussion and make the changes. And then after that
17 we'll submit it to the Federal Subsistence Board and
18 they'll respond at their January or July work session.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Jessica.
23 What's the wish of the Council, is there a motion? It
24 is an action item, it's review and approve FY 2022
25 annual report.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: What's the wish of
30 the Council.

31
32 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I approve the
33 2021 Council -- no, review and approve FY 2022 annual
34 report as read -- as written.

35
36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion on
37 the floor by Esther to adopt -- to review the approval
38 of FY 2022 annual report. Is there a second.

39
40 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded by -- is
43 that Brower Frantz:

44
45 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Eddie, Kaktovik.

46
47 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay, Eddie. Okay.
48 Thank you. Any discussion or concerns?

49
50

0119

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Was that question
4 called for?

5

6 MR. FRANTZ: Call for question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
9 called for. All in favor say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
14 sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none,
19 motion carries. We have an annual report.

20

21 We don't have any action items left,
22 but we do have -- well, we do have one more, but we
23 have an agenda ahead of us. But we wanted to make sure
24 that while we have a quorum that we finish all action
25 items in case we don't have one tomorrow morning. So
26 we're just suggesting that we pick a date of our next
27 meeting and where it will be held so that we won't have
28 to deal with that tomorrow if we don't have a quorum.
29 So we do want to -- and it's usually in August or 2023.
30 So what's the wish of the Council?

31

32 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, if I may
33 interject just real quick. So our -- if we want to
34 move forward with talking about the meeting dates I can
35 -- I have dates set up and I've got a couple of things
36 to put in for that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I know during our
39 meetings, you know, I made a suggestion that, you know,
40 for our next Regional Advisory Council meeting, North
41 Slope Regional Council meeting that we invite the
42 Northwest Arctic Advisory Council especially dealing
43 with the decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
44 And I think they've been wanting to attend. You know,
45 we supported the Northwest Arctic Borough quite a few
46 times in their proposals, but we always seem to get --
47 even the -- what the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
48 Working Group supported their proposals, but they never
49 go through because the Federal Advisory Council can
50

0120

1 override us. And they have -- we need to have more
2 participants when they're having public comments or,
3 you know, on the radio. So seem like we get
4 overpowered by outside influence whether nonresident or
5 out of State that call in. The majority of these
6 proposals or -- and, you know, we don't have the
7 numbers within our region, but I think the -- inviting
8 the Northwest Arctic Borough Subsistence Advisory
9 Council to our next meeting dealing with some of these
10 issues especially with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
11 and I think some of them come into the Porcupine Herd
12 in their area and there was a lot of concerns of the
13 road, the Ambler Road, to the mine which is in the
14 route of the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou
15 Herd going further south and going north.

16
17 So with that said we are under
18 suggestion where our next meeting will be and when for
19 our Regional Advisory Council for the North Slope
20 Borough, it's usually held in August in the falltime.

21 Any suggestions or comments?

22
23 MS. GILL: So thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: I would like to suggest mid
26 August, the week of the middle of August. I would
27 prefer to be at camp during the rest of these months.

28
29 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I'm sorry, Wanda,
30 we can barely hear you. Were you making a motion to
31 have our next meeting somewhere, is that what you said?

32
33 MS. KIPPI: I'm suggesting to have a
34 meeting August -- the dates of August -- August 19th
35 through the 23rd, somewhere around there. Leaving
36 months for.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We're still having
39 trouble hearing you, Wanda.

40
41 MS. KIPPI: August 19th through 23rd.

42
43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.

44
45 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, I would just like
46 to note that the Council voted last year -- sorry in
47 October, to hold the meeting in Utqiagvik November 1st
48 and 2nd. That's what we had voted on in October for
49 the next meeting.

50

0121

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. So our next
2 will be November or October, is that what you're
3 stating?

4
5 MS. GILL: Yes, I'm sorry, I muted
6 myself. Yes. So right now the meeting of the North
7 Slope Council had voted to hold the meeting November
8 1st and 2nd, 2023 in Utqiagvik.

9
10 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. Did
11 everybody get that? So our next meeting will be in
12 Barrow late October or November.

13
14 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
15 I'm actually going to propose that we move it to
16 October 31st and November 1st so that you can fly in a
17 little bit easier from Point Hope to Barrow.

18
19 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: What's the wish of
20 the Council, I know it's Halloween time, I'm going to
21 miss my candy.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: What's the wish of
26 the Council.

27
28 MS. KIPPI: November 1st and the
29 meeting on the 3rd. I'd rather be at camp, my last --
30 my last day.

31
32 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: We just got --
33 Wanda, we just got the last portion of your and the
34 volume went up.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Travel date November 1st.
37 Can you hear me?

38
39 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, there was a
40 suggestion of October 31st and November 1st in
41 Utqiagvik.

42
43 MS. KIPPI: If it says travel date
44 November 1 and meeting the 2nd and the 3rd.

45
46 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I think that in the
47 last meeting they already set a date and a place. They
48 just want to verify the date, but it was already
49 suggested in Utqiagvik. And we know that -- that we
50

0122

1 need ahead of time because this -- we know there's only
2 one flight a day on Alaska Airlines. And it's pretty
3 hard to get in and out with one flight a day of Alaska
4 Airlines for a lot of our -- the people not in
5 Utqiagvik. And Wright Air only flies at certain days
6 and times to Barrow. Point Hope, Wright flies to
7 Barrow on Thursday. I don't know where that's going to
8 come around on October 31st.

9

10 MS. GILL: So October 31st is a Tuesday
11 and November 1st is a Wednesday. So if you -- if we
12 met -- if we met on those two days you would be able to
13 fly -- fly back to Point Hope on the 2nd which is a
14 Thursday.

15

16 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. So we're
17 still under discussion for the dates and the places.
18 It's suggested -- it was suggested in Utqiagvik, we're
19 just trying to figure out the dates and everybody
20 agrees with that.

21

22 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. I think I would
23 want to come on that week, the 31st through the 2nd of
24 November although I am going to be missing my brother's
25 birthday, he was born on the 31st. So we celebrate his
26 birthday and go to good feeding.

27

28 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. This
29 isn't a action -- this is an action item so we need a
30 motion for the date and place. And then we'll go from
31 there, but it is going to be in Utqiagvik, within that
32 date area. Is there a motion?

33

34 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I make -- this is
35 Esther. I make a motion that our meeting dates for the
36 fall is 10/31 to 11 -- November 1st.

37

38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion on
39 the floor. Is there a second.

40

41 MR. FRANTZ: Seconded.

42

43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: It's seconded. Any
44 discussion.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Call for the
49 question.

50

0123

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
2 called for. All in favor of having the next North
3 Slope Subsistence Advisory Council meeting in Utqiagvik
4 November 31st and, I mean, October 31st and November
5 1st say aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed, same
10 sign.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none, the
15 motion carries. We have a date and place for our next
16 meeting.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 And we will go down.....

21
22 MS. HUGO: It's 5:00 o'clock.

23
24 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, it's after
25 5:00, what's the wish of the Council, we don't have
26 much of an agenda to go through, we still have one more
27 day tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock. And then
28 hopefully we'll be done by noon.

29
30 MS. HUGO: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: What's the wish of
33 the Council.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. We just got
38 a clarification on item E is an action item which
39 doesn't have an asterisk on. And that is Federal
40 Subsistence Board update draft Council correspondence
41 policy. So we are on item E. And I guess it is an
42 action item.

43
44 Okay. The floor is yours. Can you
45 state your name and.....

46
47 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Thank you very
48 much. Hello, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. For
49 the record my name is Brent Vickers and I am the
50

0124

1 Anthropology Division Supervisor for the Office of
2 Subsistence Management. The meeting materials for this
3 agenda item can be found on -- what pages, does anyone
4 no? Sorry, I just got this like two minutes ago.

5

6 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, the Council --
7 the Council can find these items on Page 7 of your --
8 sorry, not 7, Tab 7 of your supplemental book. There's
9 two different versions available. So in your
10 supplemental book there is a -- it's on Tab 7 or page
11 of that book. So in this one -- in this copy there is
12 changes that are bolded for your review and then
13 there's also a copy in your meeting book, the regular
14 bound book, that doesn't have the changes highlighted
15 on Page 64 and 65 of your bound book, the other -- the
16 other meeting book.

17

18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you.
19 Everyone got that?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The floor is open.

24

25 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Thank you very
26 much, Jessica, I really appreciate. Hold there because
27 I may have another question for you coming up. Okay.
28 So thank you for clarifying those pages and I want to
29 reiterate that this is an action item.

30

31 The Office of Subsistence Management
32 would like your review and comments on a suggested
33 updated of the current Council correspondence policy.
34 The update is meant to streamline and clarify the
35 policy. Hopefully the suggested edits will eliminate
36 any necessary -- unnecessary language or information,
37 clarifies the guidance on the official scope of Council
38 correspondence, to whom Councils may or may not
39 correspond directly and the process for correspondence.
40 The draft updated version of the policy can be found on
41 Page 7 of the tabs; is that correct?

42

43 MS. GILL: Tab 7, Page 69.

44

45 MR. VICKERS: Tab -- thank you for
46 that. Tab 7 of your supplemental pages and Page 69 of
47 your Council books. Any new language is presented in
48 bold although proposed removed language is not
49 represented. For comparison the existing policy can be
50

0125

1 found on Page 69 of your meeting book.

2

3 MS. GILL: The existing policy can be
4 found on Page 64.

5

6 MS. HONIG: 139 of your book. That's
7 like the current correspondence policy, towards the end
8 of the book. The new one is on Page 64 of your book
9 and the one that has all the changes highlighted is in
10 the supplemental book on Page 69.

11

12 MR. VICKERS: All right. Great. Thank
13 you. I'm sorry again. Maybe she should be presenting
14 this, but I'll just -- I've got the mic so I'll go for
15 it.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Primary changes in the
20 draft policy include a short preamble, introductory
21 paragraphs of the policy summarizing the intent of the
22 policy and the authorities foundational to the Council.
23 Element 1 uses clear language to define the content and
24 focus of the Council correspondence; element 5 combines
25 elements that define the correspondence process;
26 element 7 confirms that Councils can submit comments on
27 the State regulatory proposal directly to the Board of
28 Fish and Board of Game without review by Office of
29 Subsistence Management ARD, the Assistant Regional
30 director; and element 9 clarifies that Councils may not
31 write directly to Federally elected or appointed
32 officials due to Hash Act restriction.

33

34 Please take a moment to review the
35 suggested changes or if you prefer I can read the
36 policy into the record. Once again this is an action
37 item, but a motion is not required. Instead please
38 share your comments and questions if you have any which
39 will be noted. The Board will take action on this
40 draft policy during the summer work session and you
41 will be updated on the new policy at your fall meeting.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
44 Council. That concludes my presentation, I'm sitting
45 here, but obviously others such as Jessica Gill and
46 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Katya
47 Wessels, Council Coordination Supervisor are also on
48 the phone to answer any questions.

49

50

0126

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any
4 comments or questions or concerns with these changes
5 that are going to be submitted?

6

7 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, Esther for the
8 record. So the changes are from 139 on this book and
9 then looking at Tab 7 and it's the bold letter that
10 are.....

11

12 MR. VICKERS: Yes.

13

14 MS. HUGO: Okay. Thank you.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
19 accept was it, the proposed -- hold on, where was I,
20 now I lost it, the Regional Advisory Council
21 correspondence policy as read on Tab 7.

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: He stated that we
24 could have time to look it over before we decide or
25 make an amendment to this. Is that what you're asking
26 for, an amendment to this policy? And we are == the
27 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council correspondence
28 policy that's before the Council and, you know, some of
29 us haven't had time to review the changes and then what
30 it's going to do, what the -- and I think -- I don't
31 know if the Council wants more time to look at it and
32 better understand what's going to happen with these
33 changes and not take action on them right away until we
34 fully understand this change in correspondence policy.

35

36 What's the wish of the Council.

37

38 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, this is Wanda.

39

40 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yeah, Wanda.

41

42 MS. KIPPI: Can they -- can they do the
43 highlight on the changes?

44

45 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, they got it
46 right there.

47

48 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda Kippi. Can
49 they do the highlight of the changes?

50

0127

1 MR. VICKERS: Yes. Hello, this is
2 Brent Vickers, the -- from Office of Subsistence
3 Management. Would you like me to read where we have
4 the changes which were added in a highlighted and bold
5 print on our draft changes here?

6
7 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Just for the record
8 this is not an action item you said earlier and that we
9 can have time to think of it and can you have these
10 changes in, you know, written form that would be
11 amended into our policy and that we have time to better
12 understand these and what' going to -- how it's going
13 to affect our correspondence and policy of the North
14 Slope Subsistence Advisory Council?

15
16 MR. VICKERS: Yes.

17
18 MS. LaVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
19 LaVine.

20
21 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

22
23 MS. LaVINE: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is
24 Robbin LaVine. I'm the Subsistence Policy Coordinator
25 here at OSM. And this is kind of an action item, it's
26 kind of not an action item. You don't need to make an
27 official motion. We're suggesting some changes to the
28 correspondence policy to make the process of writing
29 letters and to who you can write letters and how and
30 what those letters might cover, we want to make it a
31 little clearer. And so in your books there's some
32 highlighted or bolded language and that's the new
33 language. And we're hoping it makes things a little
34 clearer.

35
36 And what this agenda item is for is for
37 you to review, if you have any questions or comments
38 we'll note those questions and comments and we will
39 share your questions or your comments and concerns with
40 the Board. And the Board is going to look at this and
41 hear the summaries of all the Councils -- from all of
42 the Councils, everybody's questions and comments this
43 summer. So when the Board has their work session this
44 summer they'll take a look at these suggested changes.
45 And it hasn't -- it hasn't changed the policy
46 significantly, it's streamlined it, organized it and
47 hopefully clarified it.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0128

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
2 response. As long it benefits the Regional Advisory
3 Council and makes it more clearer or more stronger to
4 the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council on these
5 policies. What's the wish of the Council, did you get
6 the understanding and clarification of what was just
7 said?

8
9 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, Esther for the
10 record. I think I kind of understand what -- from this
11 139 and there's high bolded letters on Tab 7, I guess
12 that's the changes.

13
14 MR. VICKERS: Yes, that's correct,
15 Council member Hugo. The changes and really as Ms.
16 LaVine just said that the changes are intended not to
17 make any significant change to how things are being
18 done.....

19
20 MS. HUGO: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. VICKERS:but rather you can
23 look at some of them, it's just changes in the wording
24 because it's obvious that is unclear and so things that
25 they changed are in bold and on the supplemental
26 materials. The original copy is on Page 139 of the
27 meeting book. And so you can kind of put them side by
28 side and for example on policy number 4 or policy
29 number 2 for example, it says the Councils are -- it
30 used to say the Councils are advisors to the Board.
31 But they added the words, the Councils are advisory
32 bodies to the Board, just to clarify that you as a
33 Council are one acting body and not independent
34 advisors acting in independently. So little things
35 like that just to make things more clear. There's no
36 significant changes. If anything was removed, any
37 wording like that was removed from Page 139, they
38 weren't able to put it in the bold there. So
39 everything added is on page -- in the supplemental
40 materials, Tab 7, the original is 139.

41
42 I hope that is all correct and I hope
43 it answers some questions.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you for
48 clarifying that and, you know, gives us a better
49 wording understanding and what it means in these
50

0129

1 policies.

2

3

4 So what's the wish of the Council, do
5 they want to act on this now or a later date?

6

7 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, sorry. Just
8 to clarify you can act on it tomorrow, but it's --
9 because it's an action item you can act on it as Ms.
10 LaVine said. You don't have to act on it if you don't
11 want to act, but if you want to make an act -- act on
12 it, it would have to be tonight or tomorrow during this
13 meeting. You can also just put forward comments for
14 the Board on this as well, but if you're going to act
15 it has to be during this meeting. If you don't want to
16 act then you don't have to act.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. We --
21 you know, we have a quorum and we're not sure if we'll
22 have a quorum tomorrow. If we don't have a quorum
23 tomorrow we can't take any action and it would have to
24 be put on a later date. I'm just asking what's the
25 wish of Council at this time before we adjourn for
26 supper break until tomorrow morning?

27

28 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I think we should
29 just -- since we have a quorum we should take this
30 action just in case maybe one of them won't call in
31 tomorrow because of reasons, you know. So maybe.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Esther.
34 Do we still have the -- I haven't heard from the other
35 Council members. It's a quarter to 6:00. What's the
36 wish of the Council, is there anybody still online and
37 understand this amendment or change to clarify some
38 wording or put it to a better understanding, going to
39 restrict things, I -- what's the wish of the Council?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Do we still have a
44 quorum?

45

46 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, this is Brower
47 in Barrow. I guess I'd move to accept the Subsistence
48 Regional Advisory Council correspondence policy as
49 presented to us.

50

0130

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So there is a
2 motion on the floor. Is there a second.

3
4 MS. KIPPI: Second.

5
6 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: I second.

7
8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded. Any
9 further discussion.

10
11 MS. HUGO: Question.

12
13 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
14 called. All in favor say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
19 sign.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none, the
24 motion carries. Now we have a better understanding to
25 our policies. Thank you.

26
27 Any further action items before we
28 close for supper and reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow
29 morning?

30
31 MS. GILL: I hate to be the bearer of
32 bad news, but there are two more action items. Sorry.
33 If we think we'll have quorum tomorrow, it's just
34 meeting dates, determining a couple more meeting dates
35 past -- like for the winter, 2024 and fall, 2024
36 meetings.

37
38 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I think we had set
39 those dates for our next meeting, is that what, the
40 annual meeting or you want to.....

41
42 MS. GILL: Sure. We had set the
43 meeting dates for fall, 2023, but we're looking for the
44 meeting dates for fall -- for winter, 2024 and for the
45 fall, 2024. So a year from now and then a year and
46 half from now.

47
48 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. What's the
49 wish of the Council, are we going on break, we have no
50

0131

1 more action items, is that what you just.....

2

3 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, those are the
4 only two action items we have left.

5

6 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay.

7

8 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, it's Brower
9 from Barrow.

10

11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, go ahead.

12

13 MR. FRANTZ: It's Brower in Barrow.
14 I'd like to make a motion for the winter, 2024 meeting
15 to be placed on February 12th and 13th.

16

17 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion on
18 the floor for a 2024 meeting date.

19

20 MS. GILL: Sorry, I have something to
21 add. So in winter of 2024 we actually intend to hold
22 an all Council meeting, all Regional Advisory Council
23 meeting in Anchorage. So for all 10 Councils we're
24 hoping to host a meeting in Anchorage in March, 2024.
25 Right now we're -- our ideal date is March 4th through
26 the 8th and we're actually just looking to see if
27 there's any specific conflicts with that particular
28 meeting or if there's a better meeting date in March,
29 2024 that would work better for this Council.

30

31 The -- we are also posing this to all
32 the other Councils and so if we choose a certain date
33 it might not be the end date, might not be what we
34 actually end up with, but just wanted to get some ideas
35 about March, 2024.

36

37 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you, Janelle
38 [sic] Hearing that, Brower Frantz, were we about to
39 make -- obtain a motion and it's suggested to have it
40 in Anchorage in March. I didn't quite hear the dates
41 and hopefully in March Madness when all our high school
42 basketball players that are there we can go and support
43 and cheer for them. So what's the wish of the Council
44 for the next 2024, winter meeting in Anchorage during
45 March.

46

47 Is there a motion?

48

49 MS. KIPPI: Still there, Brower.

50

0132

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

2

3 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

4

5 MR FRANTZ: I'm trying to figure out
6 how to word this. I guess I'd move to go with the
7 March dates as suggested.

8

9 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes, is that a
10 motion? Is there a second?

11

12 MS. HUGO: Wanda seconded.

13

14 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Wanda seconded.
15 Any further discussion? Can we just get clarification
16 on the date, is that March 8th you said or.....

17

18 MS. GILL: Sure. So, Mr. Chair, the
19 tentative dates right now are March 4th through the
20 8th, but we have the entire month of March to decide --
21 to choose one. Those are just the dates that seem to
22 work really well for what we have anticipated, but we
23 have room to play with that if we need to.

24

25 And just a point of order here. I
26 think Brower actually needs to rescind his original
27 motion about February 22nd or his original dates in
28 February that he proposed. I think that needs to
29 happen first.

30

31 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: I know he made a
32 motion, but I don't think there was a second. So if
33 there was no second the motion dies. So there was a
34 motion, but nobody seconded it, I got stopped before I
35 could ask. And so there was a motion on the floor by
36 Wanda or was it Brower Frantz and then seconded by
37 Wanda Kippi. And the suggested dates for 2024, winter
38 meeting is 4th through the 8th, but is that subject to
39 change, is that what you're stating?

40

41 MS. GILL: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: And the meeting
44 will be in March and we are under discussion. Is there
45 any further discussion.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. HUGO: Question.

50

0133

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question has
2 been called for. All in favor say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Hearing none we
12 have a proposed date for 2024, winter in Anchorage
13 between March 4th and 8th which can change if -- it's
14 still a year away.

15
16 And we have one more action items, it's
17 select the fall, 2024 meeting date and location.
18 What's the suggestion, our Coordinator?

19
20 MS. GILL: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So for
21 the fall, 2024, I know this just seems like it's very
22 far away, the fall, 2024 Council windows open on August
23 19th and ends on November 1st, 2024. So we can -- I
24 believe at this point we can host a meeting in
25 Utqiagvik, but I -- we can talk more about that if we
26 choose a date.

27
28 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. What's
29 the wish of the Council.

30
31 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda for the
32 record. For the fall, 2024 Regional Advisory Council
33 meeting calendar, I would suggest August 19.

34
35 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Okay. There's a
36 motion on the floor for August 19 and the location is
37 Barrow. Is there a second.

38
39 MS. HUGO: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Seconded by Esther.
42 Any discussion.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MS. HUGO: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: The question's been
49 called for. All in favor say aye.

50

0134

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
4 sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: So our next meeting
9 will be -- you know, fall meeting of 2024 in Barrow.
10 Okay. Thank you. And what's the wish of the Council,
11 we'll go adjournment until tomorrow morning at 9:00
12 o'clock? We don't have any other action items. What's
13 the wish of the Council.

14

15 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, this is Esther.

16

17 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is
18 Eddie.

19

20 MS. HUGO: Recess the meeting until
21 tomorrow morning, 9:00 o'clock.

22

23 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: There's a motion to
24 recess the meeting until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.
25 Is there a second.

26

27 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes.

30

31 MR. EDDIE REXFORD. Hi, this is Eddie.
32 I'm going to be traveling at that time so I won't
33 probably be calling in. I'm heading home from
34 Fairbanks tomorrow morning.

35

36 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: All right. Thank
37 you. Any other comments on reconvening tomorrow.

38

39 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, this is Wanda.

40

41 MR. EDDIE REXFORD: Okay. See you guys
42 tomorrow.

43

44 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Yes. Wanda?

45

46 MS. KIPPI: Yes. I'm still not feeling
47 well so I don't know if I'll be able to call in the
48 morning.

49

50

0135

1 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Thank you. We went
2 through all our action items so whoever calls in and we
3 will convene and finish up with the rest of the reports
4 and there will be meeting minutes for what you missed.

5

6 So we are on a discussion to recess
7 until tomorrow morning. So question has been called
8 for, all in favor say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: Any opposed same
13 sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN OOMITTUK: None opposed so we
18 are recessed until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 22nd day of February;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of March 2023.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26